



CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

PDR

March 13, 1986

The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is a follow-up to my letter of February 20, 1986 which responded to your inquiry about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's response to the earthquake that occurred in the vicinity of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant on January 31, 1986.

Immediately following the January 31, 1986 earthquake, the NRC staff formed an Augmented Investigation Team (AIT) led by Dr. Carl Paperiello of the NRC Region III staff. The NRC is conducting a comprehensive investigation of the earthquake and its implications for the Perry plant. As a part of its investigation, the NRC staff has taken appropriate actions to ensure that all data connected with the earthquake is preserved to permit a thorough and complete investigation. Consistent with NRC Confirmatory Action Letters issued by the NRC regional staff beginning on the day of the earthquake, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI) has maintained, to the extent practical, all plant equipment, structures, and instrumentation in the "as-found" condition, pending evaluation for potential earthquake-related damage. A procedure is in place at Perry to assure all potential earthquake-related conditions are reported to the NRC staff and fully evaluated.

On February 11, 1986 the NRC staff held a technical meeting at the Perry plant site to discuss with CEI and its consultants the results of CEI's review and evaluation of the earthquake and the plant response. On February 12, 1986 CEI submitted a written report of its findings, which the NRC staff is evaluating. Initial reports to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards were made on February 12 and 13, 1986.

To date, CEI's reviews and NRC inspection teams have found no significant physical damage to plant structures or equipment. According to CEI, a large number of plant systems were energized at the time of the earthquake, and those systems were not adversely impacted. CEI has also submitted to the NRC staff its analysis of earthquake-related data, and its impact on the plant design. CEI had concluded that the earthquake: (1) did not exceed the design capacity of the Perry plant; (2) did not damage

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the Perry plant; and (3) provides no reason to change the design basis for the Perry plant.

The NRC staff and its consultants are carefully reviewing CEI's analysis and conclusions. Based on that review, and its own physical inspections and engineering analysis, the NRC staff will determine whether the earthquake adversely affected the plant and whether, on the basis of the new data, it is able to reaffirm its prior favorable determination regarding the adequacy of the Perry plant design. The NRC staff completed an initial technical assessment with the issuance of SER Supplement 9 on March 5, 1986; a copy of this document has already been forwarded to your staff. We will continue to keep you and your staff apprised of progress made in the NRC staff's review, and will continue to supply you with the earthquake-related documentation you requested.

The NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards has been briefed by the applicant and the NRC staff and is expected to provide its assessment of the technical findings and conclusions reached by the applicant and the NRC staff relative to the impact of the earthquake on the Perry design.

Also, a motion by intervenor Ohio Citizens for Responsible Energy to reopen the contested proceeding because of the occurrence of the earthquake is pending before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance to you or your Subcommittee concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Nunzio J. Palladino

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead
Rep. D. E. Eckart
Rep. J. F. Seiberling