UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

May 16, 1997

EA - 412

Mr. Wilfred Connell, Vice President
Clinton Power Station
Illinois Power Company
Mail Code V-275
P. O. Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-461/97006 (DRP)

Dear Mr. Connell:

On April 5, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Clinton Facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Procedure adequacy and adherence continued to be inconsistent during this inspection period. While many observed activities were accomplished in an acceptable manner, other activities were impacted by inadequate procedures or procedural adherence issues. We recognize that near the end of this period your staff implemented a revised procedure adherence policy document; however, we continue to be concerned by the length of time that it took to develop the revised policy and the amount of NRC involvement required to identify the need for a revised policy.

In addition to the issues identified in this report, a special inspection was conducted during this period to review the circumstances associated with the March 9, 1997 containment isolation automatic actuation surveillance. That inspection's results will be documented in a separate report.

This report documents six violations of NRC requirements. The first violation involves seven examples of procedural non-compliance in documenting the modifications to one outboard Feedwater containment isolation check valve (FW-032A). This violation is of concern because of the lack of rigor demonstrated by your Maintenance staff in maintaining procedural compliance during this high priority, high visibility project. Feedwater check valve FW-032A had never passed an as-found surveillance test, and this modification was a commitment covered by our January 9, 1997 Confirmatory Action Letter. The next three violations deal with an inadequate surveillance procedure for reactor pressure vessel (RPV) leak testing, an inadequate surveillance procedure for containment ventilation effluent treatment testing, and an inadequate maintenance procedure for freeze seal installation. These violations are of concern because they represent additional examples of a well documented problem area. We are also concerned that identification of the procedure adequacy problems for the RPV leak test and the containment ventilation test required NRC involvement. The fifth violation deals with the

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failure to maintain the seismic design attributes of the main control room. The sixth violation involves four examples of inadequate procedures. The fifth and sixth violations were described in detail in Inspection Report 50-461/96011.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the first four violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement actions are necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

James L. Caldwell

James L. Caldwell
Deputy Regional Administrator

Docket No.: 50-461
License Nos: NPF-62

Enclosures:
1. Inspection Report No. 5-461/97006(DRP)
2. Notice of Violation

cc w/encl: W. D. Romberg, Assistant
Vice President
P. Yocum, Plant Manager
Clinton Power Station
R. Phares, Manager-Nuclear Assessment
J. Sipek, Director - Licensing
Nathan Schloss, Economist
Office of the Attorney General
G. Stramback, Regulatory Licensing
Services Project Manager
General Electric Company
Chairman, DeWitt County Board
State Liaison Officer
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

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/s/James L. Caldwell
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Office of the Attorney General

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cc w/encl:
G. Stramback, Regulatory Licensing
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