

July 14, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Cook:

**SUBJECT: NRC RADIATION PROTECTION AND CHEMISTRY INSPECTION REPORT
50-461/97013(DRS) AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

On May 23, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Clinton Nuclear Power Station. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to chemistry, to radiation safety, and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel. The focus was to review your staff's corrective actions for the radiological program issues described in NRC Inspection Report 50-461/96012(DRS), the implementation of the chemistry program, and the operability of the control room emergency ventilation and standby gas treatment systems.

Problems in procedural adherence continued to be identified; however, some improvements were observed in radiological performance. During ALARA pre-job meetings and work planning, the plant staff demonstrated conservative planning and referenced lessons-learned from previous activities. In the chemistry program, your staff's analytical capabilities were considered good. However, our inspection identified that the chemistry self-assessment process, while effective in identifying problems, was not fully effective in resolving them.

One violation with multiple examples was identified during the inspection. The six examples, primarily in the chemistry area, concern the failure to properly follow station procedures. The examples are representative of and similar to problems with procedural adherence and adequacy that have affected other areas of the station. In particular, we are concerned that your corrective actions to address these station problems did not resolve similar issues in the chemistry department and have not fully resolved problems with radiation worker practices.

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July 14, 1997

This violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it 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 action is 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.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

original signed by J. L. Caldwell

James L. Caldwell
Deputy Regional Administrator

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

- Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
- 2. Inspection Report 50-461/97013(DRS)

cc w/encls: 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 Services
 Project Manager, General Electric Company
 Chairman, DeWitt County Board
 State Liaison Officer
 Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

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July 14, 1997

identified a contaminated area which was not posted as required. These examples are representative of and similar to problems with procedural adherence and adequacy that have affected other areas of the station. In particular, we are concerned that your corrective actions to address these station problems did not resolve similar issues in the chemistry department and have not fully resolved problems with radiation worker practices.

This violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it 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 action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

James L. Caldwell
Deputy Regional Administrator

Docket No. 50-461

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-461/97013(DRS)

See Attached Distribution

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