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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

July 15, 1997

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

SUBJECT: CLINTON STARTUP READINESS ACTION PLAN CLOSE-OUT,
NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-461/97.012(DRP)

Dear Mr. Cook:

This letter and the attached inspection report, document the completion of our review of specific corrective actions Illinois Power (IP) committed to complete prior to restarting Clinton Power Station (CPS).

On September 5, 1996, a reactor recirculation pump seal failed at CPS. Event follow up by IP and NRC identified the need for extensive corrective actions. In a December 9, 1996, letter to the NRC, IP described 53 individual corrective actions that would be completed prior to CPS restart. That letter was a follow-up to IP letters dated September 17 and 24, 1996, and a September 11, 1996, NRC Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL).

The 53 commitments in the December 9 letter were confirmed in NRC CAL No. RIII-97-01 issued to IP on January 9, 1997. A request to amend one commitment was made in IP letters dated February 7 and April 8, 1997. The requested amendment was acceptable. IP added two more commitments to those items discussed in the December 9 letter, bringing the total to 55 corrective actions. These 55 commitments were contained in IP's Startup Readiness Action Plan (SRAP).

In a March 13, 1997, letter to Mr. Larry Haab, Chief Executive Officer, IP, NRC informed IP that an NRC unit restart and site performance improvement oversight panel (the panel) had been formed. One purpose of the panel was to assess the completeness and effectiveness of your corrective actions. The panel held meetings, open to the public, with IP on April 19, May 1, 15, and 28, June 13 and July 3, 1997, to discuss individual commitment status and other matters affecting unit restart.

On July 3, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection of your completed SRAP commitments. The results of the inspection are documented in the attached Inspection Report. The inspectors concluded that all SRAP commitments capable of being accomplished with the unit shut down had been satisfied. Items III.3, IV.1, and IV.13 involving monitoring operator performance during unit start up, "B" reactor

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recirculation pump seal replacement, and feedwater check valves, have additional actions, e.g., testing and observations, to be evaluated during plant startup and power ascension.

The panel has reviewed the attached report, and has concluded that you have satisfied the commitment documented in the January 9, 1997, CAL to perform 55 specific corrective actions prior to restarting CPS and that those corrective actions have been effective.

While the specific items have been completed, long term system, program, and organizational improvements will require continued effort and vigilance by IP management and staff. NRC will continue to closely monitor CPS's performance for evidence that your corrective actions continue to be effective.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ J. L. Caldwell

James L. Caldwell
Deputy Regional Administrator

Docket No.: 50-461

License Nos: NPF-62

Enclosure: Inspection Report
No. 50/461-97012(DRP)

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