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September 7, 1988

Director, Office of Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: George W. Tharpe
Docket No. 55-60359
License No. OP-10420
EA 88-25

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: REPLY TO A NOTICE OF VIOLATION

I have been notified that as a result of my enforcement conference on February 9, 1988, I would be charged with a Notice of Violation, Severity Level III, and assessed a proposed civil penalty of \$500.00. The reason for the imposition of the violation and penalty was my failure to comply with Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station Administrative Procedure A-7 entitled "Shift Operations" which required in paragraph 7.1.7 that I remain attentive to duty, and in paragraph 7.1.8 that I refrain from engaging in distracting activities in the Control Room.

I wish to inform you that I admit my violation of Administrative Procedure A-7 which, in turn, is a violation of the requirements of my Reactor Operator's License. On occasion, prior to March 24, 1987, particularly during the 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift, I did recline in a resting position with my eyes closed. I agree that I was inattentive to instrumentations and controls while engaged in this activity. I also read non-work related material while I was on duty, and condoned distracting activities including, on several nights, the playing of a tape-deck in the Control Room.

My reason for engaging in this unacceptable behavior was that I permitted myself to succumb to boredom, rather than attempting to challenge myself with other activities. I tried to fit into the same mold as the other operators and I allowed myself to adopt bad habits. I stupidly thought there were things such as reading I could get away with, because they had gone on for so long in the Control Room.

I know that what I did was wrong and potentially unsafe. I might have missed a changing parameter while I closed my eyes or

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read a magazine. I also could have been delayed in responding to a piece of equipment, or in taking immediate, corrective action. The disciplinary action I received as a result of my behavior really hit me hard. I view the letter of reprimand placed in my personnel file by Philadelphia Electric Company as a permanent black mark against me.

I took many corrective steps to make sure that I no longer engaged in activities violative of plant procedures and my license. I satisfactorily completed the PFE course set up by Philadelphia Electric Company to give me needed job skills. I learned how to work together with my crew as a team and to understand the importance of working together. I was taught ways to communicate better and how to give directions to subordinates so that I could help my crew and myself pursue our work in a more personally rewarding manner. I have received good evaluations of my job performance recently, primarily because I have been striving hard to incorporate all of the constructive suggestions I have received.

To help myself continue the momentum, I have made changes in the way I stand my shift. After I make my formal, hourly rounds, I keep walking around my assigned area checking instruments, charts, etc. I also keep talking about developments with my fellow operators and with the floor operators. I get more involved than I used to in routine matters, such as diagnosing problems raised by the floor operators so that they can better understand their jobs. All of these things keep my interest in my job high.

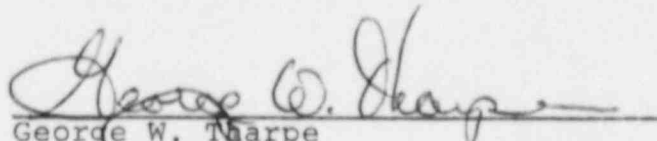
I feel that I got into trouble prior to shutdown because I tended to go along with others. I did not speak up if I thought something violated A-7. I just went along with it. I now understand that I am responsible for everything that occurs on my shift. I have the strength to rely on my own judgment of what is right and wrong, because I have support from my Shift Manager and from my co-workers. Knowing that they will stand behind me if I am uncomfortable with any plant activities has heightened my confidence in my own judgment.

Throughout this ordeal I have done a personal reassessment of myself. I understand that full compliance with procedures can only be achieved through constant monitoring of myself and others. I give you my word that I will never jeopardize my

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license by having to approach an enforcement conference situation again.

Respectfully submitted,


George W. Tarpe

cc: Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
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King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

