

October 7, 1998

Mr. Lew W. Myers
Vice President - Nuclear
Centerior Service Company
P.O. Box 97, A200
Perry, OH 44081

SUBJECT: NRC ROUTINE RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION REPORT
50-440/98017(DRS) AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Myers:

On September 14, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection of your Perry Nuclear Power Plant. A meeting was conducted at your facility on September 3, 1998, to discuss the findings of this inspection; however, your staff provided the NRC additional data and documentation on September 4 - 9, 1998, which was reviewed in the Region III Office. On September 17, 1998, a subsequent telephone conversation was conducted with Mr. Joseph Sipp of your staff to discuss the results of that review. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress. Specifically, the inspection focused on the implementation of the radioactive materials and waste shipping program and of the radiological environmental monitoring program. During this inspection, previous inspection items were also reviewed.

Your staff effectively implemented the radiological environmental monitoring program. Environmental sample results were properly included and discussed in the annual reports, and sampling equipment was effectively maintained. In addition, your results have not indicated any measurable impact on the environment from radiological effluents. We also observed that your staff properly prepared shipping documents for shipments of radioactive materials and wastes from your facility. Individuals involved in the radioactive shipping program were provided with a good level of instruction concerning NRC and Department of Transportation requirements.

However, one violation was identified concerning your staff's inadequate evaluation of scaling factors used to classify shipments of radioactive wastes (i.e., spent ion exchange resins) for ultimate disposal. Specifically, the NRC identified an error in your staff's calculations which resulted in the activity of certain radionuclides being under-reported on radioactive waste manifests. Following this error, four shipments of spent resins were sent from your facility for ultimate disposal. Although this error did not result in an incorrect classification of these waste shipments, the waste manifests documenting the radionuclide activities of these shipments were inaccurate. The accuracy of these manifests is important, in that, it may affect the ability of the burial sites to ensure compliance with the requirements of their licenses.

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The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket in Inspection Report No. 50-440/98017(DRS). Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commissions regulations, a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response to this letter, if you should choose to respond, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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

Sincerely,

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-440
License No.: NPF-58

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-440/98017(DRS)

cc w/encls: H. Hegrat, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
T. Rausch, Director, Quality and Personnel Development
R. Schrauder, Director, Nuclear Engineering Department
W. Kanda, General Manager, Nuclear Power Plant Department
N. Bonner, Director, Nuclear Maintenance Department
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Ohio State Liaison Officer
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C. Glazer, State of Ohio Public Utilities Commission

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