

October 28, 1998

EA 98-410

Mr. G. Rainey, President  
PECO Nuclear  
Nuclear Group Headquarters  
Correspondence Control Desk  
P.O. Box 195  
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-0195

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-277/98-08, 50-278/98-08

Dear Mr. Rainey:

On September 21, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six-week period covered by this inspection period, your staff continued to operate both units at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station safely. Operators in the control room demonstrated very good communication practices during this inspection. Operators also showed very good questioning attitude while pursuing a breaker problem and during the review of a surveillance procedure.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report.

The first violation occurred when inadequate system restoration instructions in the reactor water cleanup system operating procedure did not detect, on two occasions, valves that were mispositioned in maintenance activities. The first occasion of mispositioned valves caused a steam leak into a room outside of containment and an unplanned entry into emergency operating procedures. The second occasion caused an unexpected engineered safety feature actuation (i.e. automatic system isolation). We determined that this violation was repetitive since the corrective actions for a prior plant status/configuration control violation cited in NRC Inspection Report 50-277(278)/98-01 were not sufficient in order to preclude this violation. In your response to this violation, please provide your assessment as to why your corrective actions for the prior plant status/configuration control violation were not effective to prevent this violation.

The second violation was identified by an NRC inspector and involved the failure of radiation protection technicians to fully comply with a procedure associated with source checking of instruments used to survey incoming shipments of radioactive material.

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The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the second violation, and the actions taken or planned to correct this violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed in this inspection report. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this violation unless the descriptions in the referenced report do 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.

The radwaste processing, handling, storage, and radioactive material transportation programs, limited senior reactor operator requalification program, and construction of the independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) were also inspected by Region I specialists during this inspection period. We noted that radwaste processing, handling, storage, and radioactive material transportation programs were effective. We concluded that the limited senior reactor operator requalification program was good overall. We also determined that construction activities on the east retaining wall of the ISFSI were acceptable.

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).

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Clifford J. Anderson, Chief  
Projects Branch 4  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-277, 50-278  
License Nos.: DPR-44, DPR-56

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 50-277/98-08 and 50-278/98-08

cc w/encls:

J. Hagan, Vice President, Nuclear Station Support  
J. Doering, Vice President, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
M. Warner, Plant Manager, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
G. D. Edwards, Chairman, Nuclear Review Board  
R. Boyce, Director, Nuclear Quality Assurance  
A. F. Kirby, III, External Operations - Delmarva Power & Light Co.  
G. J. Lengyel, Manager, Experience Assessment  
J. W. Durham, Sr., Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
T. M. Messick, Manager, Joint Generation, Atlantic Electric  
W. T. Henrick, Manager, External Affairs, Public Service Electric & Gas  
R. McLean, Power Plant Siting, Nuclear Evaluations  
D. Levin, Acting Secretary of Harford County Council  
R. Ochs, Maryland Safe Energy Coalition  
J. H. Walter, Chief Engineer, Public Service Commission of Maryland  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Hiebert, Peach Bottom Alliance  
Mr. & Mrs. Kip Adams  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
State of Maryland  
TMI - Alert (TMIA)

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