



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

October 30, 1998

Mr. W. G. MacFarland IV
Senior Vice President
Clinton Power Station
Illinois Power Company
Mail Code V-275
Post Office Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

SUBJECT: CLINTON INSPECTION REPORT 50-461/98017(DRP) AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. MacFarland:

On October 1, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at the Clinton Power Station. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection. During the period covered by this inspection, the conduct of activities at the Clinton facility was generally characterized by continued deficiencies involving Technical Specification implementation and ineffective corrective actions for conditions adverse to quality.

Two examples of a failure to take adequate corrective actions for conditions adverse to quality were identified. In the first example, you identified that corrective actions taken from September 1996 to April 1998, to improve the timely performance of safety screenings or evaluations for disabled or out-of-service annunciators were not fully effective. In September 1998, NRC inspectors identified that corrective actions had yet to be developed and implemented for this issue. As a result, multiple disabled or out-of-service annunciators had not been evaluated to ensure that the degraded conditions did not constitute defacto changes to the facility as described in the Updated Safety Analysis Report. In the second example, NRC inspectors identified that you closed four out of ten engineering department condition reports without either determining the apparent cause for the issue or the extent of the condition or developing corrective actions to address the apparent cause. Improvements in the corrective action program will continue to be monitored as part of the NRC's Manual Chapter 0350, Case Specific Checklist Item III.1, "Establish and Implement Actions to Achieve and Sustain Improvement in the Corrective Action Program." //

We are concerned about one violation of NRC requirements that was identified during the inspection regarding the failure of technicians to announce area radiation monitor annunciators to the control room supervisor. This violation is of concern because important information regarding the status of safety-related components and systems was not being communicated to the control room staff and this was apparently a routine practice for certain annunciators rather than a one-time occurrence. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reasons for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence, and the date when full compliance will be achieved, is already adequately addressed in the enclosed report.

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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 NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, the enclosures, and your response to this letter, if you should choose to respond, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Marc L. Dapas, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

- Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
- 2. Inspection Report 50-461/98017(DRP)

cc w/encs: G. Hunger, Station Manager
 R. Phares, Manager, Nuclear Safety
 and Performance Improvement
 J. Sipek, Director - Licensing
 Nathan Schloss, Economist
 Office of the Attorney General
 G. Stramback, Regulatory Licensing
 Services Project Manager
 General Electric Company
 Chairman, DeWitt County Board
 State Liaison Officer
 Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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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 2790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, the enclosures, and your response to this letter, if you should choose to respond, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Marc L. Dapas, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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- Nathan Schloss, Economist
Office of the Attorney General
- G. Stramback, Regulatory Licensing Services Project Manager
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Chairman, DeWitt County Board
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