

OCT 11 1988

Docket No. 50-440
Docket No. 50-441

The Cleveland Electric Illuminating
Company

ATTN: Mr. Alvin Kaplan
Vice President
Nuclear Group

10 Center Road
Perry, OH 44081

Dear Gentlemen:

On September 4, 1988 and again on September 17, 1988, Perry Unit 1 experienced perturbations in the off-gas system resulting in hydrogen burns within the system. The September 4, 1988 hydrogen burn resulted in combustion in two charcoal adsorber beds (fire extinguished by nitrogen purge), while the September 17, 1988 event only involved a burn of the hydrogen within the system.

In response to the September 17th event you provided, via letter dated September 19, 1988, a listing of the specific actions you planned to implement to evaluate the event. Your letter also indicated that concurrence from Region III staff would be obtained prior to making Perry critical. On September 23, 1988, you were informed that Mr. K. Connaughton, Senior Resident Inspector at Perry, was authorized to grant NRC concurrence for restart. After a thorough review by a special NRC inspection team of your root cause evaluation, corrective actions, and operator training, Mr. Connaughton provided our restart concurrence on September 25, 1988.

During the startup we observed the special tests conducted on the off-gas system and conclude that the changes made to date should reduce the likelihood of future problems with excessive hydrogen buildup in the system. Furthermore, your written submittal of September 23, 1988 identified long range plans to evaluate by the end of the first refueling outage, items for possible implementation that could further minimize the possibility of hydrogen burns in the off-gas system. We plan to conduct followup inspections to assess your actions in this area.

This letter is to confirm that you have completed all the actions specified in your letter of September 19, 1988, and that concurrence from the NRC was given prior to the restart of Perry Unit 1. Details on the NRC's actions will be contained in Inspection Report No. 50-440/88016(DRS).

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We will gladly discuss any questions you may have in this regard.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY HUBERT J. MILLER

Hubert J. Miller, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

- cc: F. R. Stead, Director, Nuclear Support Department
- M. D. Lyster, General Manager, Perry Plant Operations Department
- R. A. Newkirk, Manager, Licensing and Compliance Section
- S. S. Kensicki, Director, Perry Plant Technical Department
- DCD/DCB (RIDS)
- Licensing Fee Management Branch
- Resident Inspector, RIII
- Harold W. Kohn, Ohio EPA
- Terry J. Lodge, Esq.
- James W. Harris, State of Ohio
- Robert M. Quillin, Ohio Department of Health
- State of Ohio, Public Utilities Commission

RIII
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 Cooper
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 Wright

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