



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
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December 31, 1997

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

SUBJECT: NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-440/97022(DRP) AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Myers:

On December 1, 1997, the NRC completed a special inspection of the inadvertent loss of reactor pressure vessel water inventory event that occurred on October 11, 1997. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Your staff's response resulted in satisfactory recovery from the event with no actual consequences to the public health and safety. The diagnosis of the event and the determination to insert a manual scram to terminate the event were well thought-out and executed. In addition, your staff's root cause investigation was conducted in a methodical, thorough and timely fashion, which resulted in an investigation report that accurately represented the issues surrounding this event. The short term corrective actions that were taken as a result of this event were timely and appropriate. The long term corrective actions also appear appropriate, however, at the time of this inspection, corrective actions for generic tag-out problems were still being developed.

One violation of NRC requirements was identified concerning the failure of your staff to adequately assess the effects of a tag-out on plant conditions, contrary to Perry's safety tagging procedure. Two of the factors that caused this tag-out to be used were a common misunderstanding of system response and a lack of a questioning attitude concerning system response. The actual safety significance of this event was low. This event, however, is of significant concern due to the failures of multiple barriers designed specifically to ensure evolutions are conducted in a safe and controlled manner and due to the potential for similar events to challenge plant operators.

The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.



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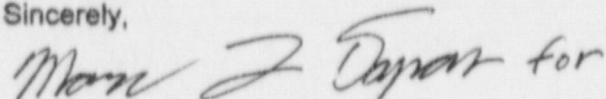
L. Myers

-2-

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the I C's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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

Sincerely,



Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report
No. 50-440/97022(DRS)

cc w/encs: H. L. Hegrat, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
T. S. Rausch, Director, Quality and
Personnel Development
R. W. Schrauder, Director, Perry
Nuclear Engineering Department
W. R. Kanda, General Manager,
Nuclear Power Plant Department
N. L. Bonner, Director, Nuclear
Maintenance Department
H. W. Bergendahl, Director, Nuclear
Services Department
Terry L. Lodge, Esq.
State Liaison Officer, State of Ohio
Robert E. Owen, Ohio Department of Health
C. A. Glazer, State of Ohio
Public Utilities Commission

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Sincerely,

/s/ Marc L. Dapas for

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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