



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

Public

February 13, 1998

Mr. Walter G. MacFarland IV
Chief Nuclear Officer
Clinton Power Station
Illinois Power Company
Mail Code V-275
P. O. Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND NRC INSPECTION REPORT
NO. 50-461/97025(DRP)

Dear Mr. MacFarland:

On January 22, 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, continued improvements were noted in audits conducted by your quality assurance organization. We are concerned, however, about two violations of NRC requirements that were identified. Both instances involved the failure of operations personnel to implement Technical Specification (TS) requirements. In the first instance, NRC inspectors identified that, due to an overdue surveillance, operators failed to ensure secondary containment isolation valve capability was maintained as required. In the second instance, NRC inspectors identified that operators failed to recognize a required entry into TSs once all 480 Volt motors were declared inoperable. In addition, there have been at least 14 similar examples of the failure to implement TSs identified by NRC inspectors and/or your staff since January 1996. The multiple failures represent a weakness in operators' ability to implement TS requirements. Your response to the violations should include the actions you plan to take to resolve the identified weakness with operators' TS knowledge and implementation.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instruction 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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W. MacFarland

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

Sincerely,

/s/ J. A. Grobe
John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report
No. 50-461/97025(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, Devitt County Board
State Liaison Officer
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W. MacFarland

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Sincerely,

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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cc w/encls: W. D. Romberg, Assistant
Vice President
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
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