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Wayne D. Romberg Assistant Vice Preside u - Nuclear

U-602834 1A.120

September 11, 1997

Docket No. 50-461

Mr. A. Bill Beach U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III 801 Warrenville Road Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Subject: Stand Down of Work Activities at Clinton Power Station

Dear Mr. Beach:

Effective at 8:00 this morning, the Manager - Clinton Power Station (CPS) ordered a stand down of site work activities. This decision was based upon several personnel errors that occurred or were discovered in the last several days, including work on wrong components, tagout errors, draining down of reactor coolant level several inches below prescribed limits, errors by Radiation Protection personnel, and various other problems. Although of varying individual significance, these problems collectively are considered by CPS management to warrant prompt and vigorous action to ensure that all site personnel understand the nature of the errors and are committed to preventing them in the future.

The stand down applies to the entire site. In general, all work not necessary to support plant safety or meet requirements is being halted. However, some work, such as warehouse receipts, security functions, and Integrated Safety Assessment support is being continued due to the impracticality of a full stand down in those areas. Also, a limited amount of maintenance work needed to maintain safe plant conditions, such as work currently being performed on the auxiliary steam system, is proceeding. Site personnel involved in those activities will nonetheless be expected to participate in briefings and other specific stand down activities.

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During the stand down, site personnel will be required to attend briefings on the nature of these problems, the purpose of the stand down, and actions that will be taken to address these problems. We are currently in the process of defining the causes of these problems more precisely and developing actions to address them. A number of these actions are expected to be completed prior to the conclusion of the stand down; others will be follow-up actions designed to ensure better performance over the longer term.

The stand down will continue until the immediate actions are completed and site management is convinced that personnel at all levels understand and are committed to preventing these types of problems in the future. The stand down is currently expected to continue through the end of the week, but may be extended depending upon the success of our immediate actions.

I will keep you informed as we proceed. Please call me should you require any additional information or wish to discuss this matter further.

Very truly yours,

Wayne D. Romberg Assistant Vice President

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J. L. Caldwell, USNRC, Region III NRC Resident Inspector, V-690

NRC Licensing Project Manager, Region III