

**CENTERIOR
ENERGY**

Power Generation Group

Perry Nuclear Power Plant
10 Center Road
Perry, Ohio 44081

Mail Address:
P.O. Box 97
Perry, OH 44081

216-280-5915
FAX: 216-280-8029

Low W. Myers
Vice President

September 16, 1997
PY-CEI/OEPA-0278L

Ms. Marie Underwood
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Northeast District Office
2110 East Aurora Road
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Subject:
Perry Nuclear Power Plant
NPDES Permit No. 31B00016*ED

This letter is to serve as written confirmation of a prior notification in accordance with Part III.12 of the subject NPDES Permit. A notification regarding strainer backwash design was made by telephone on September 12, 1997 at 1:00 pm. to Mr. Greg Lauck, OEPA Central District. Mr. Lauck assigned number 97-09-43-3749 to the notification report and recommended a follow up call and this written confirmation.

The original design of the PNPP service water system includes four backwash strainers. These are used to strain out particles larger than 1/8 inch from the system to prevent clogging in various components cooled by the system. Each strainer is an automatic self-cleaning unit that uses 520 gpm of backflush water during the cleaning cycle. Debris and backwash are flushed into a catch basin, which then drains to a storm drain. This evolution occurs automatically every 24 hours, or when a differential pressure limit is reached. The backwash water comes from the service water forebay, which is periodically chlorinated. Chlorination occurs daily for a period not to exceed two hours. Since the chlorination schedule is independent of the backwash cycle, there exists a potential path for minimal amounts of chlorinated water to go to Lake Erie, bypassing the dechlorination treatment.

This design is part of the original permitting scheme and is required to assure efficient system operation. No operator error or intentional bypass has occurred, and the systems have operated as designed. At this time there is no confirmation that the potential event described above has actually occurred, or that any applicable limits have been exceeded. An investigation is being conducted. If it is determined that PNPP has exceeded any permit limits, we will notify the OEPA per the terms and conditions of our permit.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Donna Tizzano at (216) 280-5514.

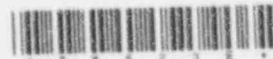
Very truly yours,



DGT:jm

cc: NRC Document Control Desk (Docket No. 50-440)
NRC Project Manager
NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Region III

9709250116 970916
PDR ADDCK 05000440
P PDR



0001/0