



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

April 7, 1998

Palmer

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

Dear Mr. Myers:

Enclosed for your review is the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) 15 report for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant covering the period of September 15, 1996 through February 28, 1998. This report will be discussed with you at a public meeting to be held at the Perry High School auditorium on April 21, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. During this meeting, you are encouraged to candidly discuss any comments you may have regarding our report.

In accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) policy, I have reviewed the recommendations resulting from the SALP Board assessment and concur with their ratings. The functional areas of Plant Operations, Maintenance, and Engineering were rated Category 2. The functional area of Plant Support was rated Category 1. It is my view that these ratings reflect the current performance at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

Overall performance in the area of Plant Operations was good. Corrective actions taken following plant events resulted in improved shift briefings and improved communications between operators. Planned evolutions, such as the reactor shutdown and startup for the refueling outage, were conducted very well. However, the communication of management expectations was not always clear. This was evident during our observations of panel walkdowns and the implementation of a new control panel deficiency tagging program. Also, occasional operator performance problems and errors during equipment safety tagging program implementation occurred.

Maintenance performance was also good. Plant material condition was significantly improved and corrective and preventive maintenance item backlogs were reduced. Work control was generally good, but some procedural adequacy and adherence problems and occasional human performance errors were noted.

Performance in the area of Engineering improved during the period, especially in the quality of design change packages. Communications with other departments were effective, contributing to good support for operations and maintenance activities and improvement in plant material condition. However, several problems were identified concerning safety evaluations and older design calculations. Also, although you implemented actions to address problems with the updated safety analysis report, this document was not properly maintained prior to NRC identification of various design control deficiencies.

The area of Plant Support also improved during the assessment period. Radiation protection performance was very good. However, some problems were noted with the implementation of an ALARA plan for main steam line plugging activities. Security performance was effective but a

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fitness for duty problem late in the period indicated improvement was needed in this area. Emergency preparedness performance was strong as reflected in the 1998 emergency preparedness exercise and during an unusual event concerning a chemical spill.

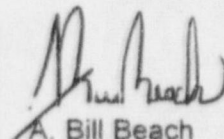
Overall performance in conducting and utilizing self-assessments improved. Plant personnel continued to maintain a low threshold for problem identification. However, the corrective actions developed from these self-assessments did not always address the full scope of the problems. The initiation of daily management reviews and collective significance reviews of identified problems were additional examples of improvements.

Overall, I view that your performance has improved during this assessment period. The actions you have taken to identify and resolve performance weaknesses have contributed to the steady improvement at Perry. I encourage you to continue with these efforts so that further improvement is realized.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter, the SALP report, and your response will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the SALP report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



A. Bill Beach
Regional Administrator

Docket No.: 50-440

Enclosure: SALP 15 Report
No. 50-440/98001

See Attached Distribution

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/s/A. Bill Beach

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Regional Administrator

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