



Illinois Power Company  
Clinton Power Station  
P.O. Box 678  
Clinton, IL 61727  
Tel: 217 935-6220  
Fax: 217 935-4632

Wayne D. Romberg  
Assistant Vice President - Nuclear

U-602820  
4F.190

August 21, 1997

Docket No. 50-461

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

Subject: Ongoing Activities to Support Illinois Power's Response to  
Confirmatory Action Letter Regarding Circuit Breaker Failure

Dear Mr. Beach:

On August 20, 1997, a public exit meeting for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Augmented Inspection Team was conducted to discuss the results of their inspection following the failure of a Westinghouse 4160-volt safety-related circuit breaker at Clinton Power Station (CPS). At that meeting there was discussion on further disassembly of the failed circuit breaker and what actions would be taken on the results of that disassembly. Shortcomings in the corrective action and preventive maintenance programs at CPS were also discussed. This letter is written to ensure the NRC is aware of the extensive actions Illinois Power is implementing to address these significant issues.

Illinois Power (IP) determined that the root cause of the failure of the circuit breaker to open was multiple deficiencies in components of the upper section of the operating mechanism. IP is currently disassembling and performing extensive component diagnostic testing on the entire circuit breaker to determine if any additional problems are present in other portions of the mechanism. This disassembly will include removal and inspection of the pole shaft roller bearings. The inspection will include an analysis of the condition of the bearings as well as the lubricant. IP will also inspect and assess the condition of the electrical portions of the circuit breaker. During this investigative process, IP is continuing to coordinate with NRC personnel. The results of this disassembly and testing will be used to determine if additional work, other than what is already planned, is necessary to provide reasonable assurance that all Westinghouse circuit breakers will operate when required. The information obtained from this investigation will be evaluated for applicability to the safety-related General Electric 4160-volt Magne-Blast circuit breakers and safety-related ABB 480-volt circuit



IE3610

000000

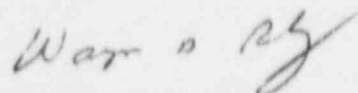
9709030346 970821  
PDR ADOCK 05000461  
G PDR

breakers used at CPS. If this evaluation determines that identified deficiencies are applicable to these circuit breakers, corrective actions for these deficiencies will be taken prior to startup from the current outage. The goal of these corrective actions will be to eliminate breaker failures at CPS. IP will meet with the NRC, as required by the August 6, 1997 Confirmatory Action Letter, to discuss the results of these inspections and the subsequent corrective action taken.

IP is also developing actions to correct the identified shortcomings in the preventive maintenance and corrective action programs at CPS. These corrective actions are still under development. IP will also discuss these corrective actions in the upcoming meeting.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this please contact me at (217) 935-8881 extension 3400.

Sincerely yours,



Wayne D. Romberg  
Assistant Vice President

MRS/krk

Enclosure

cc: J. L. Caldwell, USNRC, Region III  
G. C. Wright, USNRC, Region III  
M. A. Ring, USNRC, Region III  
NRC Resident Office, V-690  
Document Control Desk, USNRC  
Dave Zemel, T-31Z