

May 14, 1998

EA 98-247

Mr. D. M. Smith, President  
PECO Nuclear  
Nuclear Group Headquarters  
Correspondence Control Desk  
P. O. Box 195  
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-0195

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED INSPECTION 50-277/98-04 AND 50-278/98-04 AND  
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Smith:

This inspection focused on the licensed operator requalification training (LORT) program (March 9, 1998, through March 13, 1998) and maintenance rule baseline inspection open items, (March 30, 1998, through April 3, 1998) at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Delta, Pennsylvania. In-office inspection review occurred between April 4, 1998, and May 1, 1998. The inspectors based their findings on independent observation of activities, interviews, and document reviews. At the conclusion of the inspection, Messrs. Caruso and Williams of my staff discussed the findings with Messrs T. Mitchell, J. Doering and others of your staff on March 13 and April 3, 1998. I also summarized the findings of this report with Mr. M. Warner and other members of your staff on May 7, 1998.

During the inspection, we identified two violations of NRC requirements that involved failure to fully implement your LORT program. The first violation involved a failure to assure sufficient differences in the job performance measure (JPM) portion of the operating test administered to different crews on different weeks. This violation is of concern because of the potential for precluding the identification of retraining needs. The second violation involves the failure of your operating test to evaluate SROs fulfilling the role of the control room supervisor in their ability to execute the emergency plan. This violation is of concern since these SROs may be called upon to execute the plan in the absence of the shift managers.

We also identified a third violation for failure to include the area radiation monitoring system within scope of the maintenance rule program in accordance with 50.65(b). This violation is of concern since scoping problems of this type have been identified through recent operating experience and findings from NRC maintenance rule baseline inspections and the violation represents an apparent failure to incorporate this information into your program.

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Mr. D. M. Smith

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The 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 instructions 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 .

Also, one of the licensed operator requalification program violations deals with failing to adhere to program or procedural requirements to assure sufficient differences in the JPM portion of the operating test from week to week. A basis for that requirement is to ensure that the integrity of examinations required by Part 55 is not compromised. Accordingly, in your response, please provide your basis as to why the integrity of all examinations recently administered (one week of which was observed by the inspectors) was not compromised and address current or planned measures to ensure the integrity of future examinations from actual or potential compromise.

Further, we are also concerned with the weakness of the shift managers in their oversight of the CRSs. In your response to this letter, we request you address this weakness and any corrective actions taken or planned.

The response directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-511. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Conte, Chief  
Operator Licensing  
& Human Performance Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket/License No. 50-277/DPR-44; 50-278/DPR-56

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 50-277/98-04 and 50-278/98-04  
and Notice of Violation

cc w/encl:

G. Edwards, Chairman, Nuclear Review Board and Director, Licensing  
J. Doering, Vice President, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
G. Rainey, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
J. B. Cotton, Vice President, Nuclear Station Support  
T. Niessen, Director, Nuclear Quality Assurance  
A. F. Kirby, III, External Operations - Delmarva Power & Light Co.  
M. Warner, Plant Manager, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
G. J. Lengyel, Manager, Experience Assessment  
J. W. Durham, Sr., Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
T. M. Messick, Manager, Joint Generation, Atlantic Electric  
W. T. Henrick, Manager, External Affairs, Public Service Electric & Gas  
R. McLean, Power Plant Siting, Nuclear Evaluations  
J. Vannoy, Acting Secretary of Harford County Council  
R. Ochs, Maryland Safe Energy Coalition  
J. H. Walter, Chief Engineer, Public Service Commission of Maryland  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Hiebert, Peach Bottom Alliance  
Mr. & Mrs. Kip Adams  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
State of Maryland  
TMI - Alert (TMIA)



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*Panel 4/22/98* *Panel 4/22/98*