



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

November 9, 1999

Mr. John P. McElwain
Chief Nuclear Officer
Clinton Power Station
Illinois Power Company
Mail Code V-275
P. O. Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

SUBJECT: CLINTON INSPECTION REPORT 50-461/99015(DRP)

Dear Mr. McElwain:

On October 18, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at the Clinton Power Station. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During this inspection period, activities at the Clinton facility continued to be conducted in a safe manner. However, the failure to promptly identify and correct conditions adverse to quality resulted in the untimely resolution of two issues. In the first issue, inadequate post maintenance testing following an emergency diesel generator outage resulted in the failure to identify a small diesel fuel leak to the lube oil. Identification of this issue was further delayed by the failure to do a timely review of an oil sample analysis. In the second issue, previously identified weaknesses in the air operated valve program were not promptly resolved despite the fact that the air operated valve program problems were known for several years. As a result, five of eight air operated valves failed to meet surveillance test acceptance criteria when they were tested early in this inspection period.

Based on the results of this inspection, we have determined that five violations of NRC requirements occurred. The first violation consisted of two examples of the failure to follow procedures and one example of an inadequate procedure. The second violation concerned the failure to perform adequate post-maintenance testing following an emergency diesel generator (EDG) outage. The third violation concerned the failure to promptly identify and correct significant conditions adverse to quality affecting an EDG and air operated valves. The fourth violation, which was reported to the NRC in a licensee event report, concerned the failure to meet Technical Specification requirements for average power range monitors. The fifth violation, which was also reported to the NRC in several different licensee event reports, concerned five examples of the failure to properly translate the design basis of certain components into specifications. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. These NCVs are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violations or the severity level of these NCVs, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

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J. McElwain

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, the enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ T. Kozak for
Marc L. Dapas, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-461
License No. NPF-62

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-461/99015(DRP)

cc w/encl: M. Coyle, Assistant Vice President
P. Hinnenkamp, Plant Manager
R. Phares, Manager, Nuclear Safety
and Performance Improvement
M. Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General
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