

December 3, 1999

Mr. R. P. Powers
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
American Electric Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107-1395

SUBJECT: NRC D. C. COOK EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE INSPECTION
REPORT 50-315/99030(DRS); 50-316/99030(DRS)

Dear Mr. Powers:

On October 28, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection of an emergency preparedness exercise at your D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant. The purpose of this inspection was to evaluate the performance of your emergency response organization during the exercise. No violations were identified during the inspection. However, two Exercise Weaknesses were identified. The enclosed report presents the results of the inspection.

Areas examined during the emergency preparedness exercise are identified in the report. Within those areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observation of performance, and interviews with staff. The objective of the inspection was to determine whether the D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Plan was adequate and if station personnel properly implemented the Emergency Plan in accordance with NRC requirements during the exercise.

Overall licensee performance during the 1999 exercise was adequate. The exercise was considered a successful demonstration of implementation of the Emergency Plan. Staff performance in the various evaluated emergency response facilities was generally effective. Two Exercise Weaknesses were identified concerning the failure to effectively communicate the status of implant repair activities to the control room and the failure to timely relieve control room personnel of the responsibility to transmit notification forms to the State of Michigan. An Exercise Weakness is a finding that could have precluded effective implementation of the Emergency Plan in the event of an actual emergency. The Weaknesses are summarized in the Appendix to this letter. As required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix E (IV.F), any Weaknesses that are identified must be corrected. Facility critiques following termination of the exercise were self-critical and detailed and the consolidated critique meeting provided an excellent discussion of exercise strengths, weaknesses, and concerns.

PDR ADOCK

R. Powers

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By John A. Grobe

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

Enclosures: 1. Exercise Weaknesses
2. Inspection Report 50-315/9930(DRS); 50-316/99030(DRS)

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EXERCISE WEAKNESS

During the evaluated exercise conducted on October 26, 1999, the following Exercise Weaknesses were identified. As required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix E (IV.F), any Weaknesses that are identified must be corrected.

1. Operations Staging Area personnel failed to communicate the status of assigned actions to the Technical Support Center and Control Room Simulator in an effective manner. Because of delays in obtaining repair team status reports, the control room staff vented nitrogen to the containment atmosphere. This unnecessary venting of additional non-condensable gases to the containment could have exacerbated control of containment pressure during an event. The inspectors identified the failure of Operations Staging Area personnel to effectively communicate the status of repair teams as an Exercise Weakness. This item was tracked as an Inspection Followup Item (IFI 50-315-99030-01; 50-316/99030-01).

2. There was a delay in restoring an Emergency Operations Facility dose projection computer to service and accepting responsibility for state notification form transmittal utilizing that computer. As a result, Auxiliary Equipment Operators (AEOs) in the Control Room Simulator continued generating and transmitting forms to offsite officials for approximately 40 minutes after Emergency Operations Facility personnel assumed overall command of event response. The inspectors identified the failure to timely relieve the Simulator Control Room shift staff of the responsibility to transmit notification forms to the State of Michigan as an Exercise Weakness. This item was tracked as an Inspection Followup Item (IFI 50-315/99030-04; 50-316/99030-04).