

November 3, 2000

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

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF CONTAINMENT STRUCTURAL ISSUES AT
DONALD C. COOK PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Powers:

This letter acknowledges receipt of a letter from M. W. Rencheck, Vice President Nuclear Engineering, dated October 15, 2000, regarding the resolution of containment structural issues at D. C. Cook. D. C. Cook, Unit 2, started up in June 2000 with certain containment walls in a degraded, but operable condition, and you are proposing the same approach for similar deficiencies identified with the D. C. Cook Unit 1 containment walls. We have reviewed the letter and acknowledge the extensive efforts that are in progress or planned to resolve these issues. However, we noted that the letter did not specify when the issues will be fully resolved to return the containment structures to full conformance with the licensed design basis.

During the September 27, 2000, public meeting regarding this same topic, we communicated to your staff regulatory expectations regarding the resolution of non-conforming conditions. Specifically, as stated in Generic Letter 91-18, "Information to Licensees Regarding NRC Inspection Manual Section on Resolution of Degraded and Non-Conforming Conditions," the licensee must establish a time frame for completion of the corrective actions, and corrective actions to remedy deficiencies should be taken as soon as practical, commensurate with the safety significance of the deficiency. In addition, the NRC expects time frames longer than the next refueling outage to be explicitly justified by the licensee.

We noted that in your letter regarding the resolution of containment structural issues, your staff did not address a time frame for when identified containment structural issues will be resolved. This issue was also discussed during the October 30, 2000, public Manual Chapter 0350 meeting. Consistent with the guidance set forth in Generic Letter 91-18, I request further clarification on your time frame for completion of corrective actions to address the containment structural issues.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

See Attached Distribution

*See previous concurrence

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cc: A. C. Bakken III, Site Vice President
J. Pollack, Plant Manager
M. Rencheck, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Emergency Management Division
MI Department of State Police
D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists

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