

August 27, 2003

Mr. Robert P. Powers
Executive Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Generation Group
American Electric Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN
D.C. COOK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (REPORT 50-315/04-01; 50-316/04-01)

Dear Mr. Powers:

On July 30, 2003, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of the D.C. Cook nuclear power plant. The mid-cycle review for D.C. Cook involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 - December 31, 2003. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, the D.C. Cook nuclear power plant operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives with moderate degradation in safety performance.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter for Unit 2 was within the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on two White inspection findings in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone and one White Performance Indicator in the Scrams With Loss of Normal Heat Removal area of the Initiating Events Cornerstone. The first White finding was identified in the first quarter of the 2002 annual assessment period and involved turbine-driven auxiliary feedwater pump start failures. The second White finding was identified in the second quarter of the 2002 annual assessment period and involved degraded essential service water system performance. A supplemental inspection was conducted in accordance with inspection procedure (IP) 95002 "Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area" for the two White findings and concluded that your evaluation of these findings was incomplete because an adequate extent of condition review for the root and contributing causes had not yet been performed. This was considered to be a significant weakness with your evaluation and resulted in both of the White findings that contributed to the Degraded Cornerstone remaining open beyond four quarters. Subsequently, a followup IP 95002 inspection was conducted and closed out the open issues. At the time these inspections were completed, the White performance indicator had not been identified and therefore, no additional inspection had been accomplished. Therefore, a supplemental

inspection to review the circumstances and corrective actions to address this White performance indicator will be accomplished following the completion of your own reviews of the root and contributing causes which led to this indicator crossing the Green/White threshold.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter for Unit 1 was within the Regulatory Response Column of the Action Matrix based on the White inspection finding associated with the degraded essential service water system. All other inspection findings and PIs for the most recent quarter for Unit 1 were Green.

In our Annual Assessment Letter dated March 4, 2003, we discussed a substantive cross-cutting issue in the area of Problem Identification and Resolution. In addition to the inadequate extent of condition review for the root and contributing causes for the two White findings, a number of other issues associated with the implementation of corrective actions were identified. Based on the continued identification of problems associated with poor corrective actions, the NRC is concerned that your performance in this area has not improved. Your performance in this area will continue to be monitored via the baseline inspection program which includes a Problem Identification and Resolution inspection scheduled for December 2003. In addition, because Unit 2 has a degraded cornerstone and because your performance in this cross-cutting area has not improved, the NRC intends to also conduct a Problem Identification and Resolution inspection in 2004.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Eric Duncan at (630) 829-9628 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA by G. Grant acting for/

J. E. Dyer
Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure: D. C. Cook Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: M. Finissi, Plant Manager
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
B. Witkowski, County Board Chairman
J. M. Henry, Berrien County Coordinator
Sheriff L. Paul Bailey
M. Bradley, Berrien County Emergency Management Coordinator
The Honorable Charles Yarbrough
C. Roberts, Benton Harbor City Manager
The Honorable Mary Goff
F. Walsh, St. Joseph City Manager
The Honorable William Skiba
A. Anthony, City Manager
The Honorable David Hagey
M. Hughes, City Manager
M. Getz, President, Village of Stevensville
J. Choudoir, President, Village of Berrien Springs
L. Larsen, President, Village of Shoreham
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D.C. Cook
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	71111.08 - ISI AND TI-150 FOR UNIT 1		2			
1	IP 2515/150	Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC Bulletin 2002-0		10/20/2003	10/31/2003	Safety Issues
1	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		10/20/2003	10/31/2003	Baseline Inspections
	BIP - ID AND RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS		1			
1,2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		12/08/2003	12/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
	FY 2004 - D. C. COOK INIT PREP 02/2004		3			
1	W90075	OL - INITIAL EXAM - DC COOK - FEB/MAR 2004		02/23/2004	02/27/2004	Not Applicable
	71111.11 - LIC OPERATOR REQUAL PROGRAM EVALUATION		2			
1,2	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		03/01/2004	03/05/2004	Baseline Inspections
	71122.02 - TRANSPORTATION & RADWASTE		1			
1,2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		03/01/2004	03/05/2004	Baseline Inspections
	FY 2004 - D. C. COOK INIT EXAM 03/2004		3			
1	W90075	OL - INITIAL EXAM - DC COOK - FEB/MAR 2004		03/15/2004	03/26/2004	Not Applicable
	HT SNK B - HEAT SINK BIENNIAL (DRS)		1			
1,2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		04/05/2004	04/09/2004	Baseline Inspections
	71114 - 7111402/03/05		1			
1,2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		04/12/2004	04/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		04/12/2004	04/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		04/12/2004	04/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
	INSP - EMER. PREP. INSPECTION		1			
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/12/2004	04/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
	71121.03 - RADIOLOGICAL INSTRUMENTATION & EQUIP		1			
1,2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		05/10/2004	05/14/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		05/10/2004	05/14/2004	Baseline Inspections
	MOD/5059 - MODIFICATIONS & 50.59		3			
1,2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		06/28/2004	07/02/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		06/28/2004	07/02/2004	Baseline Inspections
	MR - MAINTENANCE RULE		1			
1,2	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		07/19/2004	07/23/2004	Baseline Inspections
	71121.01 - RADIOLOGICAL ACCESS CONTROL		1			
1,2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/16/2004	08/20/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/16/2004	08/20/2004	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
 This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.