

April 6, 2001

Mr. John K. Wood
Vice President - Nuclear, Perry
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 97, A200
Perry, OH 44081

SUBJECT: PERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT 1 - CONCERNS REGARDING THE
TECHNICAL ADEQUACY OF LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 105

Dear Mr. Wood:

Your staff recently provided the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with copies of Perry Condition Report (CR) 01-0853, "Basis for Current Feedwater Penetration Operability," dated February 25, 2001, and an associated Immediate Investigation report dated March 15, 2001. The CR is critical of the staff's safety evaluation supporting Amendment No. 105 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-58 for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, dated March 26, 1999. Amendment No. 105 revised the design and licensing basis of containment isolation valves within the feedwater system and represented an overall relaxation of the leak testing requirements for the feedwater check valves. The feedwater check valves at Perry were leak tested in accordance with the revised leak test methodology during both Refuel Outage 7, which ended on May 3, 1999, and Refuel Outage 8, which ended on March 23, 2001.

The CR alleges numerous inconsistencies in the staff's review and failure of the staff to adequately use NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan, in our evaluation. We understand that your staff has completed an internal, short-term examination of the CR to ensure that there were no safety issues to prevent restart following your recent refueling outage. The results of this examination, which were approved by your plant operations review committee, are documented in the above mentioned Immediate Investigation report. We also understand that your staff is currently performing a more comprehensive review of the individual issues identified within the CR.

For completeness and accuracy of the staff's efforts associated with the approval of Amendment No. 105, we request that within 30 days of completing your evaluation of issues as identified in CR Number 01-0853, you provide, for inclusion on your docket file, documentation describing disposition of each issue and any additional actions that have resulted from this review.

Mr. J. Wood

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Should the results of your review affect, materially, any aspects of the staff's safety evaluation for which the approval of Amendment No. 105 was based, needed corrections are to be identified promptly in order to correct or modify the record.

Please contact Mr. Douglas Pickett of my staff at 301-415-1364 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-440

cc: See next page

Mr. J. Wood

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Should the results of your review affect, materially, any aspects of the staff's safety evaluation for which the approval of Amendment No. 105 was based, needed corrections are to be identified promptly in order to correct or modify the record.

Please contact Mr. Douglas Pickett of my staff at 301-415-1364 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-440

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J. Wood
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