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SUBJECT: Discusses delay in implementation of license amend 227 until issues fully evaluated.

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February 20, 1999

AEP:NRC:1295D

Docket No. 50-315

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Unit 1
DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF LICENSE AMENDMENT 227

On December 30, 1998, the NRC approved Amendment 227 which granted Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M) a relief from the steam generator surveillance requirements in section 4.4.5.3 of the technical specifications. The relief request was submitted on August 28, 1998 and supplemented November 4, 1998. The surveillance requirement is associated with the non-destructive examination of steam generator tubes, which is required every 24 months. The relief allows the examination to be deferred from April 8, 1999, until the next refueling outage for unit 1. On February 12 and 18, 1999, I&M management staff informed the NRC project manager that I&M would not be implementing License Amendment 227 for unit 1 within the specified 45 days. The amendment was not implemented due to a potential technical concern raised during the implementation process. The technical concern involves implementation of Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) guidelines as described in the NRC Safety Evaluation.

I&M has put the implementation of License Amendment 227 on hold until the above issues are fully evaluated. As an immediate corrective action, I&M has initiated a condition report to document this concern and will communicate the resolution schedule to the NRC when the action plan is approved. Upon completion of the evaluation, I&M will inform the NRC of the results and identify any actions to be taken. The purpose of the above I&M actions are to assure that the technical information provided in the relief request is correct prior to implementing the Amendment.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DO hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears on the records of the Department of the Interior.

WITNESSETH my hand and seal of office this 1st day of January, 1901.

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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If you have any further questions regarding this issue, please contact Gordon Arent, Acting Licensing Manager at 616-697-5064.

Sincerely,



R. P. Powers
Vice President

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MDEQ - DW & RPD
NRC Resident Inspector
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