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 LOCHBAUM, D.A. Union of Concerned Scientists
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 HICKMAN, J.

SUBJECT: Discusses residual heat removal suction valve interlock
 TS change to plants units 1 & 2.

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UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

October 2, 1997

Mr. John Hickman, Project Manager
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

**SUBJECT: RESIDUAL HEAT REMOVAL SUCTION VALVE INTERLOCK TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATION CHANGE, D. C. COOK UNITS 1 AND 2**

Dear Mr. Hickman:

The NRC and the American Electric Power Company, the licensee for the D. C. Cook plant, recently agreed that the NRC must approve changes to the Technical Specifications which will allow operation in Mode 4 with the RHR suction valves open and power removed before the plants are restarted. The Union of Concerned Scientists wants to review these license amendment requests.

UCS assumes that these license amendment requests will be processed in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91 with the required notice period for public comment. UCS assumes that the licensee will not seek, nor would the NRC staff authorize, expedited handling of these amendment requests under 10 CFR 50.91(a)(5). After all, the law clearly states that the Commission "will decline to dispense with notice and comment on the determination of no significant hazards consideration if it determines that the licensee has abused the emergency provision by failing to make timely application for the amendment and this itself creating the emergency." As identified in Daily Event Report No. 32914 dated September 11, 1997, as updated, D C Cook was operated outside its design bases with respect to the RHR suction valve interlock in Mode 4. Had the licensee performed an adequate review of the applicable operating procedures, as required by 10 CFR 50.59, the need for Technical Specification changes would have been identified at that time.

If these license amendment requests are, for whatever reason, accorded emergency or exigent handling by the NRC staff, I respectfully ask to be promptly notified.

Sincerely,

David A. Lochbaum

David A. Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer

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