PENNSTATE

(814) 863-9580
FAX: (814) 863-9659

David A. Shirley
Senior Vice President for Research
and Dean of the Graduate School

The Pennsylvania State University
207 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802-1503

July 26, 1994

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Room
Washington, DC 20555

Re: Report of Incident at the Penn State Breazeale Reactor
License Number R-2, Docket Number 50-05

On the morning of July 21, 1994, the reactor was being checked out following a power outage caused by an electrical storm the previous evening. As part of the checkout procedure, the transient control rod was scram tested. Technical Specification 3.2.6 requires as a limiting condition for operation that rods scram in less than one second. The transient rod did not fully insert and thereby failed the test. Technical Specification 1.1.33.b defines operation in violation of a limiting condition for operation a reportable occurrence which must be reported in accordance with Specification 6.6.2.a.(3). While it is not clear that a degraded condition existed during operation it is being reported for information purposes.

Immediately following the failure to fully scram the transient rod was inspected. It was found that a bolt on the control rod drive had hooked on a nearby wire which prevented full travel. The wire was re-routed and properly secured. Subsequent testing verified proper operation of the control rod. The control rods had been successfully scram tested on June 26, 1994. Maintenance since that time, some as late as the day prior to the incident, had the potential to move the wire in question. Had the condition persisted during operation, the wire would very likely have been pulled during normal transient rod motion, suggesting that the condition did not exist for an extended time.

In addition to correcting the situation, staff personnel have been briefed on the incident, the potential consequences, the root cause, and the need for care in routing wires to prevent recurrence.

Sincerely yours,

David A. Shirley
Senior Vice President for Research
and Dean of the Graduate School

pc: Region I Administrator
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

DAS/ldl4085.94

IE22
1/0