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August 31, 1983

Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Subject: Diesel Fire Pump Fuel Oil
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1
Docket No. 50-244

Dear Dr. Murley:

The following is supplied for your information regarding an incident relative to the Diesel Fire Pump fuel oil chemistry analysis at Ginna.

On March 3, 1983, a sample of the diesel fuel oil for the fire pump was taken. Technical Specification 4.15.2e requires this sample to be taken and analyzed at least once each 92 days. Since the analysis is conducted at an off-site chemistry laboratory it has been the practice of Ginna Station to sample the oil at approximately 60 day intervals. The previous sample confirmed the diesel oil as acceptable on 1/7/83.

Due to standard delays in transporting the sample to the off-site laboratory, conducting the analysis, preparing the report, and transmitting that report back to Ginna the results were not reviewed by the plant chemist until approximately 3/20/83. The results of the analysis showed that the oil met ASTM D975 recommendations for water and sediment but was below the recommended viscosity limit. (32.1 versus 32.6). In a memo dated 3/21/83, the plant chemist stated that the viscosity was not acceptable and that the fuel oil tank would be resampled. The second sample was taken on 3/22/83 and again sent to the off-site chemistry laboratory for analysis. The analysis report was transmitted to Ginna on 3/29/83. A memo from the plant chemist dated 3/30/83 stated that all sample results were within the acceptable limits. It should be noted that the diesel fire pump operated satisfactorily twelve different times during the period from 3/7/83 to 3/30/83.

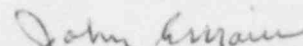
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It has been standard practice at Ginna to confirm out of specification chemistry results by analyzing a second sample as in procedure S-3.1P for the Boric Acid Storage Tanks. In the case of the diesel fuel oil the second sample demonstrated that the viscosity was within the specified limit and therefore the fire pump should not be declared inoperable and that this item would not be a reportable occurrence.

This incident however, did uncover a lack of proper administrative controls by the fact that it took at least ten days from the time the first sample was discovered to be out of specification until the results of the second sample were reviewed. Changes are currently being made to procedure WC-1 that will expedite the resampling and subsequent analysis of such chemistry results that indicate an out of specification condition.

Very Truly Yours,


John E. Maier