

January 23, 1997

Public

Mr. D. R. Gipson
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation
The Detroit Edison Company
6400 North Dixie Highway
Newport, MI 48166

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-341/96010

Dear Mr. Gipson:

On October 25, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Fermi 2 reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection, operations of your Fermi 2 facility was safe. However, conduct of several activities remained inconsistent. For example, operators performed a carefully controlled shutdown to begin the plant's fifth refueling outage. However, as the outage progressed, several events occurred that unnecessarily challenged operators and maintenance personnel and resulted from inadequate work planning or inadequate procedures. These are examples of continuing problems.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that four violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report.

The first violation pertained to a test that was not stopped as required by the test procedure. The test was to verify reactor core cooling by natural circulation was established when shutdown cooling was secured. When the output of all special instrumentation was lost before cooling was verified, the test was not stopped as required.

The second violation pertained to an inadequate safety evaluation for removal of General Service Water (GSW) system from service. The GSW system was removed from service for maintenance. The safety evaluation did not consider the need for the makeup function of the Ultimate Heat Sink (UHS). This resulted in lowering of the UHS level. Actions were taken to provide an alternate path of makeup. However, this demonstrated the lack of thoroughness during preparation and review of the safety evaluation to ensure that a safety-significant function of the system was maintained.

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The third violation pertained to ineffective corrective actions for a previous violation. While preparing for a safety battery test discharge, the fuses for a test battery were not installed when it was connected to the bus. As a result, the bus was deenergized when attempting to restore power after the test. This resulted in ESF actuations. The cause was similar to a battery charger testing violation in October 1995. The corrective actions to the October 1995 violation were ineffective and did not prevent this failure.

The fourth violation occurred when a surveillance procedure inappropriately rendered a Residual Heat Removal Service Water Pump (RHRSW) inoperable. During a routine safety bus undervoltage surveillance, operators were unable to start a RHRSW pump. The surveillance procedure was inadequate and rendered the pump inoperable whenever it was performed. This condition was not recognized by your staff. As a result, appropriate actions per technical specifications were not performed.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

/s/John A. Grobe for

James L. Caldwell, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No: 50-341
License No: NPF-43

Enclosures:

1. Inspection Report
No. 50-341/96010
2. Notice of Violation

cc w/encl: N. Peterson,
Supervisor of Compliance
P. A. Marquardt, Corporate
Legal Department
James R. Padgett, Michigan Public
Service Commission
Michigan Department of
Public Health
Monroe County, Emergency
Management Division

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

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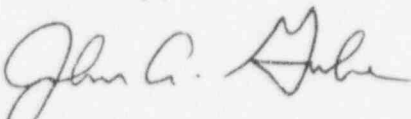
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