

January 28, 1997

General Electric Company
ATTN: Mr. C.P. Kipp, General Manager
GE Nuclear Energy Production
P. O. Box 780
Wilmington, NC 28402

SUBJECT: NRC REGION II SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM REPORT NO. 70-1113/96-12 AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Kipp:

On December 4-8, 1996, a special NRC team inspection was conducted at the Wilmington plant to review the causes and your corrective actions associated with a failure of the Line 3 calciner tube reported to the NRC on December 3, 1996. During that inspection, the team reviewed the circumstances surrounding the tube failure, precursors to the event, your response to the event, developed an understanding of the root causes, and verified the initial corrective actions that General Electric (GE) implemented to preclude recurrence.

The inspection team was composed of Messrs. E. McAlpine (Team Leader), and D. Ayres of this office; and D. Stout, G. Smith, and C. Tripp of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). The enclosed copy of our report identifies areas examined by the team.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that three violations of NRC requirements occurred. The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the report. Although the violations represent problems noted in your program, which contributed to the calciner tube failure, your response to the failure and corrective actions were excellent.

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

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Bruce S. Mallett, Director
Division of Nuclear Material Safety

Docket No. 70-1113
License No. SNM-1097

Enclosures: (See page 2)

9702110083 970128
PDR ADOCK 07001113
C PDR

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IE07

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Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
No. 70-1113/96-12

cc w/encls:

Dr. Ralph Reda, Manager
Fuels and Facility Licensing
General Electric Company
P.O. Box 780, Mail Code J26
Wilmington, NC 28402

Dayne H. Brown, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
N.C. Department of Environment,
Health & Natural Resources
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687

Distribution w/encls:

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*see previous concurrence

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SIGNATURE						
NAME	DAyres*	EMcAlpine*	DStout*	GSmith*	CTripp*	
DATE	01 / / 97	01 / / 97	01 / / 97	01 / / 97	01 / / 97	01 / / 97
COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

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cc w/encls:

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 General Electric Company
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NAME	DAyres	EMcAlpine	DStout	GSmith	CTripp	
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