



November 4, 1996

**United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555**

This Special Report is submitted in accordance with LaSalle Unit 1 and 2 Operating Licenses NPF-11 and NPF-18, Appendix A, and Technical Specifications 3.3.7.9 and 6.6.C.

Technical Specification 3.3.7.9 requires as a minimum, the fire detection instrumentation for each fire detection zone of Unit 1 and Unit 2 shown in Table 3.3.7.9-1 shall be OPERABLE whenever the equipment protected by the fire detection instrument is required to be OPERABLE.

At 1040 hours, on October 9, 1996, fire detection zones 2-16 and 2-16P were declared inoperable. The zones were impaired for a period greater than fourteen days to support activities performed during the Unit 2 Refueling Outage (L2R07). These detection zones are located in the Unit 2 drywell at elevations 740', 749' 761' and 777'. During the Refueling Outage, a number of activities such as cutting and welding have been and will continue to be performed. These activities have in the past caused the detection zones to alarm due to the products of combustion generated. The increased frequency of these false alarms has the potential to desensitize workers to fire alarms.

In accordance with the Action Statement of Technical Specification 3.3.7.9, a once per eight hour Fire Watch has been established. This watch will remain in effect until the detection system is restored. This compensatory measure along with the additional fire protection measures provided when activities such as cutting and welding occur and the oversight of the Fire Protection Administrative Program ensure the level of fire protection will not be reduced.

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If there are any questions or comments concerning this letter, please refer them to me at (815) 357-6761, extension 2212.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. J. Ray', written over a large, light-colored circular mark.

D. J. Ray
Station Manager
LaSalle County Station

cc: A. B. Beach, NRC Region III Administrator
M. P. Huber, NRC Senior Resident Inspector - LaSalle
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