



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 12, 1996

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

SUBJECT: ENRICO FERMI, UNIT 2 OPERATIONAL SAFETY INSPECTION (NRC INSPECTION  
REPORT 50-341/96-201)

Dear Mr. Gipson:

An Operational Safety Inspection at the Fermi 2 Nuclear Plant was concluded on September 13, 1996. The inspection team assessed the Fermi organization's ability to identify and resolve performance problems. In this context the corrective action and quality assurance programs were evaluated. Additionally, the team performed a Safety System Functional Inspection in order to assess the performance capability of the high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) system and the non-interruptible control air system (NIAS), and applicable support systems.

The results of the inspection are presented in the attached report. Overall, the team identified that corrective actions repeatedly failed to prevent recurrent problems. The team identified weaknesses in the corrective action and quality assurance programs which contributed to weak performance in the area of operations. Significant weaknesses in the corrective action program include root cause analyses that are not probing enough to determine the appropriate causal factors, and the lack of an escalation process to bring management attention to longstanding issues.

The NRC recognizes that considerable resources had been and continue to be invested in initiatives to improve the corrective actions and quality assurance programs. Recent changes in personnel and programs appear to be designed to address concerns in these areas. However, the effectiveness of these initiatives was not evident at the time of the inspection.

The team also determined that the HPCI system and the NIAS are capable of performing their intended safety functions. However, numerous inconsistencies in the UFSAR and design basis documents were also identified.

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D.R. Gipson

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No response to this letter is required. Any enforcement action resulting from this assessment will be issued by Region III via a separate correspondence. Should you have any questions concerning this assessment, please contact the assessment team leader, Mr. Peter Koltay, at (301) 415-2957.

Sincerely,

*for Aggy C. Qualici*

Robert M. Gallo, Chief  
Special Inspection Branch  
Division of Inspection and Support Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-341

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-341/96-201

cc: See next page.

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-2-

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Original signed by GCCwalina for:

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