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November 15, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

SUBJECT: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-416
License No. NPF-29
Special Report 96-003
Fire Detection Instrumentation Exceeds TRM Allowed Down Time

GNRO-96/000127

Gentlemen:

On October 16, 1996, at 0630, smoke detector NSP65N503C and NSP65N503D in Zone 1-3 of the Hot Machine Shop/Turbine Building were covered to allow for welding and grinding in the area. An hourly firewatch was established to patrol and inspect the affected portion of the zone.

Welding and grinding in the area will continue for the duration of the outage and the detectors will be uncovered after work has been completed.

This event is reportable pursuant to the GGNS Technical Requirements Manual Section 6.2.1 Condition C.1 since the minimum quality of detection instruments was not satisfied and exceeded the fourteen day time limit.

Yours truly,

JJH/TMC

cc: (See Next Page)

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cc: Mr. R. B. McGehee
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