

November 27, 1996

Mr. Wilfred Connell, Vice President
Clinton Power Station
Illinois Power Company
Mail Code V-275
P. O. Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

Dear Mr. Connell:

We have received your November 22, 1996, letter regarding our special inspections into the circumstances surrounding the September 5, 1996, reactor recirculation pump seal package failure. The findings and concerns based on the event and our special inspections were provided to you with my November 19, 1996, letter.

We have reviewed your letter and have determined that the facts and information provided in that letter would not cause us to change any of our conclusions described in my November 19, 1996, letter. Therefore, we continue to believe that a production mentality prevailed over an appropriate operational safety focus. However, rather than debate each of the issues raised in your letter, we will provide you the opportunity to present your findings and conclusions, and the factual basis for those conclusions, during a pre-decisional enforcement conference that will be scheduled in the future. The conference will be scheduled as soon as possible after the Office of Investigations (OI) has concluded its review.

To ensure OI has as complete a record as possible for its evaluation, we will provide them a copy of your letter. If you have additional questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Original signed by A. B. Beach

A. Bill Beach
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 50-461

cc: P. Yocum, Plant Manager
Clinton Power Station
R. Phares, Manager-Nuclear Assessment
P. J. Telthorst, Director - Licensing
Nathan Schloss, Economist
Office of the Attorney General
K. K. Berry, Licensing Services Manager
General Electric Company
Chairman, DeWitt County Board
State Liaison Officer
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

(See attached continued distribution)

W. Connell

-2-

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SRI Clinton, Dresden,
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B. L. Burgess

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Project Manager, NRR
W. L. Axelson

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