

PERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

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Donald C. Shelton
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR

May 17, 1996
PY-CEI/OEPA-0250L

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Northeast District Office
2110 E. Aurora Road
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Re: Perry Nuclear Power Plant
OEPA Permit No. 3IB00016DD

Gentlemen,

In accordance with Part III, Section 12.C of the Permit, this letter is serving as confirmation of a telephone report of an unauthorized discharge. The discharge was due to a leak in an expansion joint in the plant cooling tower basin wall. The telephone report was made to the State Emergency Response Commission on May 14, 1996. Since the time of that telephone report, four additional areas of leakage through the concrete cooling tower return header were identified. The total resulting additional leakage is estimated to be less than one gallon per minute. The Part III, Section 12. C issues were addressed as follows taking all leaks into consideration.

1. The limitation which has been exceeded: Plant circulating water was discharged to the ground through a leaking expansion joint on the cooling tower basin wall. The four additional leak locations in the concrete cooling tower header are leaking less than one gallon per minute to the ground. This is not the normal flow path for the water from this system.
2. The extent of the exceedance: Approximately one gallon per minute of plant circulating water was leaking to the ground from the expansion joint. The leakage was discovered at 1100 on May 14, 1996; by 1400 it had been contained in a sump and routed back into the cooling tower basin. The additional leakage of less than one gallon per minute was discovered during follow up inspections of the cooling tower. This leakage is not currently being contained.
3. The cause of the exceedance: A leaking expansion joint on the cooling tower basin wall and additional leak locations in the concrete cooling tower return header.

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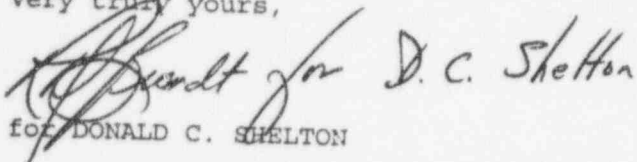
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4. The period of exceedance: The leak was noted at approximately 1100 on May 14, 1996. The time the leakage started is not known. The sump and pump were installed to route the flow back into the cooling tower basin at 1400 on May 14, 1996. The additional leakage from the cooling tower return header was noted on May 16, 1996.
5. If uncorrected, the anticipated time the exceedance is expected to continue: The leakage from the expansion joint was brought under control at 1400 on May 14, 1996, when the pump was installed to route water back into the cooling tower basin. The header leakage is not being contained. All leakage is being evaluated for repair.
6. Steps being taken to reduce, eliminate and/or prevent recurrence of the exceedance: All leakage is being evaluated for repair.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Louise K. Barton at (216) 280-5512.

Very truly yours,


for DONALD C. SHELTON

DCS.lkb:vah

cc: NRC Project Manager
NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Document Control Desk
NRC Region III