

August 27, 2003

Mr. William R. Kanda
Vice President - Nuclear
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 97, A200
Perry, OH 44081

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER - PERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
(REPORT 50-440/04-01)

Dear Mr. Kanda:

On July 30, 2003, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. The mid-cycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter continued to be within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on one White finding in the mitigating system cornerstone and a White PI for Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness in the occupational radiation safety cornerstone. The finding was the result of the failure of the high pressure core spray pump to start in October of 2002 and was issued in the first quarter of 2003. A supplemental inspection conducted in accordance with inspection procedure 95001 in July 2003 concluded that the root cause evaluation and corrective actions were inadequate. Another 95001 supplemental inspection will be scheduled to review the revised root cause and corrective actions once they are completed. The White finding will remain open until completion of this second 95001 supplemental inspection. A 95001 supplemental inspection is also scheduled in January 2004 to review the root cause evaluation of the White PI.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Perry has been chosen for a revised maintenance inspection procedure that consolidates some existing inspection procedures. The resident inspectors will be performing the routine portion of procedure 71111.EP starting in October. The other routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mark Ring at 630/829-9703 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA by Steve A. Reynolds acting for/

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-440
License Nos. NPF-58

Enclosure: Perry Inspection/Activity Plan

See Attached Distribution

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Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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SPS1

H. Nieh (HKN), OEDO

Project Director, NRR

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SRI Perry

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Perry
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	7112102	- ALARA OUTAGE REVIEW	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
	71111.01	- ADVERSE COLD WEATHER PROTECTION	2			
1	IP 7111101	Adverse Weather Protection		10/01/2003	12/27/2003	Baseline Inspections
	SG BASE	- SG BASELINE CY2003	1			
1	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizat		10/03/2003	10/03/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113003	Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of Protective Str		10/03/2003	10/03/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/03/2003	10/03/2003	Baseline Inspections
	FPI	- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION	3			
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		11/17/2003	12/05/2003	Baseline Inspections
	7112101	- ACCESS CONTROL / ALARA	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		12/08/2003	12/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		12/08/2003	12/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		12/08/2003	12/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		12/08/2003	12/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
	MR	- MAINTENANCE RULE BIENNIAL (DRS)	1			
1	IP 71111.EP	Equipment Availability and Functional Capability		02/23/2004	02/27/2004	Baseline Inspections
	95001	- SUPPLEMENTAL	1			
1	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area		01/12/2004	01/16/2004	Supplemental Progra
	71122	- EFFLUENTS, ACCESS CONTROL	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/29/2004	04/02/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		03/29/2004	04/02/2004	Baseline Inspections
	7112203	- REMP, ACCESS CONTROL	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		06/28/2004	07/02/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		06/28/2004	07/02/2004	Baseline Inspections
	SSDI	- SAFETY SYSTEM DESIGN INSPECTION	6			
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/09/2004	08/27/2004	Baseline Inspections
	7112103	- INSTRUMENTATION, ACCESS CONTROL	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.