

May 30, 2001

Mr. Robert G. Byram  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
Susquehanna Steam Electric Station  
2 North Ninth Street  
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

SUBJECT: Annual Assessment Letter - Susquehanna Steam Electric Station

Dear Mr. Byram:

On May 10, 2001, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. The end-of-cycle review for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. 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. On June 28, 2001, at 1:30 p.m., we plan to discuss this assessment with PPL management in a meeting at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center. The meeting will be open for public observation.

Overall, the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on one inspection finding of low to moderate safety significance (White) in the Occupational Radiation Safety cornerstone. Your staff did not adequately evaluate and characterize the radiation exposure hazard of some highly radioactive particles on tools used on the refueling floor and did not establish and implement adequate controls to prevent unnecessary personnel exposure from these particles. While no personnel exposures in excess of regulatory limits were known to have occurred, a minor change in exposure circumstances could have resulted in personnel over-exposure. We performed a supplemental inspection of your corrective actions for this White inspection finding during the week of April 23, 2001. The results are being documented and will be forwarded to you in a future NRC inspection report.

In our letter to you on December 12, 2000, we described a concern that the work environment within the radiation protection organization at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station may not be conducive to addressing problems. We also requested PPL's assessment of this situation and information about the actions that PPL has taken or planned to ensure that the environment at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station is a safety-conscious environment, conducive to discussing problems openly and resolving them. You provided the requested information in a meeting with us on February 1, 2001. We consider that our baseline inspection program activities will be sufficient for us to assess the safety-conscious environment at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station.

Enclosure 1 details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May 31, 2002. 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. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year. In order to transition to a calendar year cycle (January 1- December 31), the next inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e. the second, third and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, a quarterly review will be conducted for the third calendar quarter (July 1- September 30) in lieu of a mid-cycle review. The impact on the inspection plan, which is included as Enclosure 1, is minimal.

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/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). Our assessment process and terminology are further described in the NRC Reactor Oversight Process Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>

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 Mohamed Shanbaky of my staff at 610-337-5209 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/RA/

A. Randolph Blough, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 05000387; 05000388

License Nos. NPF-14, NPF-22

Enclosure: Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Inspection / Activity Plan

cc w/encl:

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G. T. Jones, Vice President - Nuclear Engineering and Support  
R. Anderson, General Manager - SSES Operations  
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OFFICE	RI/DRP	RI/DRP	RI/DRP	E
NAME	DFlorek/DF	MShanbaky/MS	ABlough/AB	
DATE	05/30/01	05/30/01	05/30/01	

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**Susquehanna**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**06/01/2001 - 05/31/2002**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>7111405 - EP CORRECTIVE ACTIONS(EARLY REVIEW)</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		06/11/2001	06/15/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112102 - OCC RAD SAFETY</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/09/2001	07/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>8/12EXAM - INIT OPER LIC EXAM</b>		<b>4</b>			
1	U01429	SUSQUEHANNA 1 & 2 O/L INITIAL EXAM 08/13-08/17/2001		07/16/2001	07/20/2001	Not Applicable
1	U01429	SUSQUEHANNA 1 & 2 O/L INITIAL EXAM 08/13-08/17/2001		08/13/2001	08/17/2001	Not Applicable
	<b>711112B - MAINT RULE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 711112B	Maintenance Rule Implementation		08/13/2001	08/17/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>60855 - ISFSI CASK LOADING INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI		08/20/2001	08/24/2001	Other Routine
	<b>7112203 - REMP</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		08/27/2001	08/31/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112103 - OCC RAD SAFETY</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		09/24/2001	09/28/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71130 - SECURITY</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizator		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112202 - PUB RAD SAFETY - RADWASTE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/26/2001	11/28/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		11/26/2001	11/28/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71152 - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION &amp; RESOLUTION</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		01/14/2002	01/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		01/28/2002	02/01/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71114 - EP PRGM REVIEW &amp; PI</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		01/14/2002	01/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		01/14/2002	01/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		01/14/2002	01/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		01/14/2002	01/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		01/14/2002	01/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>711111B - LIC OPER RQ INSP</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		01/21/2002	01/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>711117B - MODS</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		02/04/2002	02/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		02/04/2002	02/08/2002	Baseline Inspections

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

**Susquehanna**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**06/01/2001 - 05/31/2002**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>7112201</b>	<b>- PUB RAD SAFETY - RETS</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		02/11/2002	02/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111108</b>	<b>- INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		03/18/2002	03/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/25/2002	03/29/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/25/2002	03/29/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112103</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY - CALIBRATION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		05/13/2002	05/17/2002	Baseline Inspections