



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

April 19, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Jeffrey Clark, Senior Resident Inspector, Cooper Nuclear Station

FROM: Ken Brockman, Director, Division of Reactor Projects */RA by EEC/*

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION SPECIAL INSPECTION CHARTER

On April 10, 2000, the licensee identified questions about the adequacy of Environmental Qualification treatment of electrical splices located in containment. During discussions with NRC staff, an inspector specifically questioned the existence of splices wrapped with Okonite, identified during an April 1990 inspection as having questionable tests to support qualification. Although the licensee subsequently furnished testing documentation, the agency rejected two of the licensee's tests for qualification purposes related to non-RTD instrumentation splicing. Subsequently, the licensee's staff and the NRC resident inspector identified Okonite treatments that had begun to unwrap during a containment entry on April 16, 2000. As of April 18, 2000, the list of equipment potentially rendered inoperable due to Okonite treatment included High Pressure Coolant Injection and Reactor Core Isolation Cooling. A preliminary risk evaluation using the Significance Determination Process tools concluded that rendering High Pressure Coolant Injection inoperable during a small break loss of coolant accident would result in GREEN bordering on WHITE. The same evaluation concluded that loss of High Pressure Coolant Injection during a medium break loss of coolant accident could result in a YELLOW.

In order for the NRC to better understand the cause(s) of the degraded Environmental Qualification treatments, the corrective actions being taken to prevent recurrence of this condition, and any potential generic implications, a special inspection will be performed. This memorandum designates you as the lead inspector for the special inspection. Mr. Charles Paulk, Senior Reactor Inspector, Engineering and Maintenance Branch, has also been assigned to the inspection. The special inspection is to perform the following:

1. Develop a sequence of events for Okonite Environmental Qualification treatments starting from April 2, 1990, to the present.
2. Determine the adequacy of the licensee's implementation of their April 6, 1990, commitments related to the modification of taped electrical splices in harsh environments.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the licensee's efforts in identifying and preventing the failure of the Okonite wrap.
4. Identify the extent of effects of the degraded Okonite on other equipment.

5. Identify issues related to restart of the facility.
6. Assess the licensee's resolution of the degraded Environmental Qualification treatments.
7. Assess whether the licensee's event reporting activities were in compliance with 10 CFR.

The inspection activities will commence on the morning of April 19, 2000, with a report documenting the results of the inspection issued within 30 days of the completion of the inspection. Inspection Procedure 93812, " Special Inspection Procedure," is to be used for performing this inspection.

This charter will be modified should you develop significant new information that warrants review by management. Should you have any questions concerning this charter, contact Charles Marschall, Chief, Project Branch C, at 817-860-8185.

cc via E-mail:

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