

Notes pertaining to issues related to ice basket screws under problem evaluation report (PER) WBN PER 9500246.

APRIL 11, 1995(Tuesday)

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I was notified to meet Gerald Riggs(Boilermaker) in the Railroad Bay to inspect the melt tank and remove trash/debris from the tank.

APRIL 12, 1995(Wednesday)

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Began inspecting the contents found in the melt tank. Several bits of trash, ie., tape, cigarette butts, etc. Also discovered (171) ice basket screw heads and (32) complete screws. I showed several of these to our on site Westinghouse rep. Gordon Yetter, and he turned to Mr. Chuck Scrabis, Westinghouse, in Pittsburg, Pa. NOTE: Chuck is the ice condenser Engineer at their corporate office. Gordon stated that if these were indeed ice basket screws, it could have a big impact on Fuel load date at Watts Bar, Mr. Scrabis indicated that this could have industry and even global impact, ie., Duke Powers', McGuires', Catwabs' Plant, Donald C. Cooks' Plant, (in Michigan), and TVAS' Sequoyah Nuclear Plant. Also, internationally, Japans' OMI, and Finlands' Loviisa Nuclear Plant.

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APRIL 13, 1995(Thursday)

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Tried to contact Landy McCormick, my(NSSS) supervisor, but was not at work today. Will try tomorrow to tell him of the screw heads found.

APRIL 18, 1995(Tuesday)

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Started getting paperwork together for Problem Evaluation Report(PER) on ice basket screws. Called Greg Newton to borrow Black & White TV Monitor, to inspect ice baskets for missing screws. Talked with Westinghouse Reps. on possible corrective actions to take concerning the screws. Vonda needs some of the screws for pre-analysis.

APRIL 19, 1995(Wednesday)

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Transferred 10 screw heads and 1 screw to Vonda to have analysis performed by the Central Laboratories...Report due back in 3 weeks.

MAY 2, 1995(Tuesday)

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Contacted Bob Forestein, Site Quality Assurance(QA), on assisting me on ice basket sampling method for investigating missing screw/screw heads.

MAY 5, 1995(Friday)

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Vonda Sisson called, "said preliminary report from screw analysis looks like intergranular stress corrosion cracking; however, the lab needs more screws from the baskets, ie., whole screws and some that have never been used, to help them with their final evaluation." Right now looking at using 6 new and 6 that had been in service, may need more! Call the boilermaker foreman, to start removing some screws next Tuesday.

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MAY 8, 1995(Monday)

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Vonda called and instead of Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking, it looked more like a heat treatment problem, she's trying to get ASTM material type off the screw.

MAY 9, 1995(Tuesday)

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Received basket screws from Boilermaker Foreman, Denny Tumlin. Sign in Work Order on the disposition of the screws to Nuclear Engineering Rep., Vonda Sisson.

MAY 12, 1995(Friday)

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Landy McCormick needs draft of Corrective Actions for FER 9500246, on the ice basket screws.

MAY 22, 1995(Monday)

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FER 9500246 needs all signatures and get scheduled for MRC on the 24th of May, NLT.

MAY 24, 1995(Wednesday)

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Vonda called and needs more information on the screws from Westinghouse, ie., tempering process, heat treatment, temperature and duration of time. I asked Gordon Yetter for support.

MAY 25, 1995(Thursday)

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Prepared PER continuation sheet indicating generic problem to Sequoyah N.P.

JUNE 2, 1995(Friday)

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Received little feedback today from Vonda. She is compiling the information for the technical report.

JUNE 9, 1995(Friday)

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I faxed to Westinghouse on June 8, 1995, the technical report for the ice basket screws. Gave an extra copy to Westinghouse site manager, Gordon Yetter. I expressed the need to have meeting, ASAP, to discuss this issue, and plan of direction, etc. Again Mr. Yetter indicated the importance of this having global impact. Vonda is having the technical report formally transmitted to Technical Support. Called John Rathjen @ Sequoyah, and told him of the meeting. I think he needs to be here. Denny Tumlin called and gave me TIIC Number for screws, BXV254X, approximately 29,000 in stock. I called Beverly Garrison, material manager, to have these screws placed on administrative hold, until further notice. I called John Rathjen back asking for one dozen of their new replacement screws to transmit to WBN for testing. He said, John Casey, their Supervisor, would have to release the screws to us. I called Mr. Casey, and explained why we need their screws, he stated, "NO, he can't release these, that this could/would shut them down." A meeting is to be held next Monday at NFIO Conference Room at 9:00 A.M., on the screw issue.

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JUNE 14, 1995(Wednesday)

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Recieved phone message, "You sure picked a fine time to bring up the screw issue!" I told Vonda Sisson and Landy McCormick of the call. John Rathjen from Sequoyah called, and discussed with Vonda and me, the screw issue, ie., screw type; size, and material. There was a big meeting today at 1:30 P.M., at IOB C-100 Conference Room.. Alot of people attended: Tech Support, Design, Westinghouse and Corporate Metallurgical Supervisor, Terry Woods. Terry dominated the meeting, stressing that this was not a safety issue. I tried to express my views on the probable cause, and possible fix, but was out voiced. There seemed to be no agenda to the meeting, just alot of loud talking people. Westinghouse was really hammered by Mr. Woods, to get with their corporate office on a resolution to this matter, ASAF, because of Fuel Loading being so near. I mentioned to Mr. Woods the information I learned from D.C. Cook and Duke Power on their missing screws, and nothing more was said...No response! During the meeting, Vonda Sisson, and some other metallurgical staff were asked to leave, also all Technical Reports on the screws, were to be pulled back. Mr. Woods stated that Central Lab personnel weren't qualified to draw conclusions on methods or mode of failure mechanisms. A second report was forth-coming.

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JUNE 15, 1995(Thursday)

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I began processing an extension request for the PER 9500246. Last night I recieved my second phone call. This time it was a female voice. "Mr. Overall, the screw issue won't keep WBN from operating!" I reported this call to my supervisor, Landy McCormick, Site Security, etc. There was a telecon on the screws today in the Field Services Building(FSB). The telecon included TVA, Westinghouse(Site Rep.), Westinghouse Corporate, and TVA Corporate Design Unit. This telecon was out of control, everyone trying to speak out of turn. The main issue was how or would these screws be a safety aspect. Basically, Westinghouse was pressured into preparing a report on the main issue of safety, etc. and submit this to Nuclear Engineering, for closing this issue, During the telecon several people indicated that this is a bad time to be bringing this issue up. Even my Supervisor, Landy McCormick, indicated after the meeting, while walking back to our offices, that the telecon wasn't handled quite right, and stated, "we need to give this PER over to Nuclear Engineering to close out and I sure hope that NRC doesn't review this one due to how it was handled here recently."

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JUNE 16, 1995(Friday)

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Met with Landy McCormick on screw PER. Still undecided if or when Nuclear Engineering will take over the PER. PER was extended to July 14, 1995, per Chip Hickey, TROI Coordinator. Talked with Vonda Sisson at Central Lab. She's there to assist in additional testing of the screws; ie., yeild, tensil, shear, etc.. The original Tech. Report, discussed several causes of failure. She stated, Corporate Management said, "Nuclear Engineering at WEN should have performed this and come to their own conclusion of mode of failure." Another report is being prepared. Also, additional screws may need to be tested.

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JUNE 19, 1995(Monday)

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Recieved a third call, "We're really glad you're leaving WBN!"

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JULY 7, 1995(Friday)

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Was asked to meet with Nuclear Engineering Manager, Frank Kootnz, and Metallurgist, Teresa Chapman, to try and develop re-currence controls of the screw issue. Questions were asked. Can the screws in stock be used for replacement? Due to the flaws noted, how many screws can be missing from the ice condenser, ie., 1600, 2000? My answer was that Westinghouse must provide this data. Also, we discussed several what ifs on failure mechanisms.

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Since July 7th I was not contacted again, pertaining to the issues related to WBN PER 9500246. I never got to review the Westinghouse evaluation of the screw heads found, nor reviewed the actions taken by Nuclear Engineering.

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WBN PER 9500246 was written April 26, 1995 and was closed October 17, 1995.

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The information I have stated pertaining to the ice basket screw Problem Evaluation Report(PER), are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Curtis C. Overall  
February 5, 1997