



July 28, 2005
NRC:05:047

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

10 CFR Part 21 Notification of Existence of a Defect

This letter provides notification of a reportable defect in accordance with 10 CFR Part 21. This situation was reported to the NRC Operations Center by facsimile at 4:34 p.m. EST on July 22, 2005.

This issue concerns Framatome ANP supplied pressurizer heaters with internals manufactured by Thermocoax.

The affected utilities have been informed of the planned actions. Actions already taken to address the issue are provided in the attachment to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronnie L. Gardner".

Ronnie L. Gardner, Manager
Site Operations and Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

cc: M. C. Honcharik
Project 728

TO10
IE20

ATTACHMENT A

Reportable Defect

- (i) *Name and address of the individual informing the Commission*

Gayle Elliott, 3315 Old Forest Road, Lynchburg, VA 24501

- (ii) *Identification of the facility, the activity, or the basic component supplied for such facility or such activity within the United States which fails to comply or contains a defect.*

The components that contain the defect are pressurizer heaters.

- (iii) *Identification of the firm constructing the facility or supplying the basic component which fails to comply or contains a defect.*

Framatome ANP, Inc. supplied pressurizer heaters with internals manufactured by Thermocoax.

- (iv) *Nature of the defect or failure to comply and the safety hazard which is created or could be created by such a defect or failure to comply.*

This issue concerns installed pressurizer heaters that were supplied by Framatome ANP. The heaters in question had a deficiency that may have resulted in a portion of the heated length being located inside the pressurizer heater nozzles (sleeves). Evaluation indicates that the failure mode could cause heating of the pressure boundary base metal (pressurizer heater nozzle) above the design temperature specification.

- (v) *The date on which the information of such a defect or failure to comply was obtained.*

This issue was determined to be a deviation on June 15, 2005.

- (vi) *In the case of a basic component which fails to comply, the number and the location of all such components in use at, supplied for, or being supplied for one or more facilities or activities subject to the regulations in this part.*

Framatome ANP supplied 36 Thermocoax pressurizer heaters to Arizona Public Service for Palo Verde Unit 3 and 30 heaters to Entergy for Waterford Unit 3.

- (vii) *The corrective action which has been, is being, or will be taken; the name of the individual or organization responsible for this action; and the length of time that has been or will be taken to complete the action.*

All of the heaters supplied for Palo Verde Unit 3 have been removed from service and will not be reinstalled in the plant. All of the pressurizer heaters delivered for Waterford 3 (except for five) have been removed from service. The remaining five pressurizer heaters are currently installed in the pressurizer, however, Entergy has taken steps to preclude electrically energizing of these heaters and, therefore, the adverse conditions that could be created by the defect are precluded.

- (viii) *Any advice related to the defect or failure to comply about the facility, activity, or basic component that has been, is being, or will be given to purchasers or licensees.*

See (vii) above.