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SUBJECT: Responds to NRC Bulletin 89-001, "Failure of Westinghouse Steam Generator Tube Mechanical Plugs."

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December 29, 1989

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Gentlemen:

Docket 50-305
Operating License DPR-43
Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant
NRC Bulletin 89-01: "Failure of Westinghouse Steam Generator Tube Mechanical Plugs" (TAC #73177)

References: 1) Letter from D. C. Hintz (WPSC) to NRC Document Control Desk dated June 19, 1989

2) Letter from A. T. Gody, Jr. (NRC) to Wisconsin Public Service Corporation dated October 17, 1989

3) Letter from A. T. Gody, Jr. (NRC) to K. H. Evers (WPSC) dated October 18, 1989

NRC Bulletin 89-01 was issued in response to NRC concerns about extensive primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC) of certain thermally treated Inconel 600 Westinghouse steam generator tube plugs. This NRC Bulletin prescribed licensee corrective actions and provided a schedule for completion of these actions.

Reference 1 provided Wisconsin Public Service Corporation's (WPSC) response to NRC Bulletin 89-01, and requested an extension to the NRC prescribed time-table. Specifically, WPSC proposed a one time plug repair/replacement effort for the 1991 Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant refueling outage (March, 1991).

On September 14, 1989, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC) and Westinghouse Electric Corporation (WEC) representatives met with NRC staff to provide clarification and justification for taking exception to the NRC prescribed licensee actions delineated in NRC Bulletin 89-01. In reference 2 NRC summarized this meeting, and included a copy of all non-proprietary slides

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presented by WPSC and WEC. This meeting summary stated, in part, that WPSC had not provided adequate justification for extending the repair/replacement schedule for the Kewaunee steam generator tube plugs.

Reference 3 summarized WPSC and NRC sequence of events and correspondence as of that date, and reiterated that WPSC had not provided sufficient technical justification for exception to the actions prescribed in NRC Bulletin 89-01. Additionally, this letter requested that WPSC respond, within 60 days of receipt of that letter, outlining WPSC proposed actions.

The following discussion outlines WPSC's planned steam generator tube plug repair/replacement effort:

> WPSC has identified 232 tube plugs requiring repair/replacement as prescribed in NRC Bulletin 89-01.
>
> During the 1990 Kewaunee refueling outage (March, 1990), these 232 plugs of the affected heats will be repaired using the WEC plug-in-plug (PIP) method.

Should further information be required in your review of this submittal, please contact C. S. Smoker of my staff at 414-433-1415.

Sincerely,

K. H. Evers
Manager - Nuclear Power

CSS/jms

cc - Mr. Patrick Castleman, US NRC
US NRC, Region III