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ACCESSION NUMBER: 7907170090 DOC. DATE: 79/07/10 NOTARIZED: NO DOCKET #
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SUBJECT: LER 79-018/01T=0 on 790626: vendor reported high energy line breaks inside containment can cause heatup of steam generator level ref legs, delaying protection signals from lo-lo steam generator trip channels. Cause: analysis error.

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Attachment to LER 79-017/01T-0

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant
Docket 50-305
Operating License DPR-43

Description of Event

During the current refueling outage, information was received regarding cracks found in the FW piping at the S/G nozzles of another operating facility. Since routine ISI operations were in progress, a decision was made to UT and RT the same piping sections at the Kewaunee Plant. Inspection results indicated the existence of linear indications in the FW piping at the nozzles of both S/G's. Subsequently, IE Bulletin No. 79-13 was received; inspections required by this Bulletin will be performed during the current outage. The effected FW piping was removed and will be replaced with piping sections that have been modified to reduce a peak stress point incurred due to a pipe camphor required to mate the schedule 60 nozzle with the schedule 100 FW piping. Since system integrity and function capability were not violated there was no effect on plant operation or public health and safety.

Cause Description

The FW piping sections removed from the FW lines were analyzed at a Westinghouse metallurgical laboratory. The preliminary results indicate a stress/corrosion mechanism of cracking. The root cause for this cracking has not been identified. A long-range program of investigation is under way and includes future inspections to detect any possible re-occurrence of these cracks and determination if the cause still exists.