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SUBJECT: Forwards proprietary & nonproprietary Westinghouse Repts
SGO-ATD-96-13 & SGO-ATD-96-12, "Interim Rept on Laser Weld
Repair of Hybrid Expansion Joint Sleeves," respectively.
Proprietary Westinghouse Rept SGO-ATD-96-13 withheld.

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NRC-96-33

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April 18, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Ladies/Gentlemen:

Docket 50-305
Operating License DPR-43
Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant
Interim Report on Laser Welded Repair of Hybrid Expansion Joint Sleeve

Currently, the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) is operating in a reduced power condition due to the extensive number of steam generator (SG) tubes that have been plugged. A significant number of these tubes were plugged due to parent tube indications detected in the upper joint of Westinghouse mechanical hybrid expansion joint (HEJ) sleeves. The presence of these indications and their affect on the operation of the KNPP has been discussed with the NRC staff on a number of occasions. We also have been working closely with the NRC staff on a Technical Specification (TS) change to relocate the upper HEJ pressure boundary. Approval of this TS will allow us to recover and return to service a number of the plugged, HEJ sleeved tubes.

In addition to the HEJ pressure boundary relocation, we are working with Westinghouse on a number of other strategies that will allow continued safe operation of the KNPP SGs. For the near-term we are pursuing an increased tube plugging limit, an alternate repair criteria for the tube support plate intersections, a method to repair the HEJ sleeved tubes that cannot be recovered with application of the revised pressure boundary, laser welded sleeves that can be installed in peripheral locations, and development of an elevated F* and re-roll that can be performed in the upper half of the tubesheet. For the long-term we are pursuing replacement SGs and have recently filed an application for construction approval with our Public Service Commission.

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Attached to this letter is Westinghouse report SGO-ATD-96-13(12) titled "Interim Report on Laser Weld Repair of Hybrid Expansion Joint Sleeve" (proprietary and non-proprietary versions) and the accompanying affidavit requesting that SGO-ATD-96-13 be withheld from public disclosure. This report describes the repair technique that we plan to use for the HEJ sleeves that can not be recovered by application of the revised pressure boundary criteria. This report describes the proposed repair process and the work that has been completed thus far to demonstrate that the laser welded repair is feasible and that an acceptable weld can be made in upper HEJ. Westinghouse is currently performing accelerated corrosion testing on mock-up samples to establish the long term performance of the repaired joint. The accelerated corrosion testing will be completed early this summer. Following completion of the corrosion testing we will submit the final report to the NRC staff in support of our request to perform a laser welded repair of HEJ sleeved tubes.

Our current plans for the upcoming Fall 1996 refueling outage are to apply the 2-volt alternate repair criteria for the tube support plate intersections, the HEJ pressure boundary relocation and the elevated F* re-rolling. However, we fully recognize that tube conditions detected during the inspection may require additional repairs prior to returning the SGs to operation. Therefore, we would like to have HEJ repair and laser welded sleeving as options if needed. Our intent in submitting this interim report is to make the NRC staff aware of the work we have in progress with Westinghouse, and our plans for the up coming refueling outage.

We appreciate the NRC staff support to date on our amendment request for the HEJ relocation and alternate repair criteria for the tube support plate intersections. If you have any questions on the attachment to this submittal, or our plans as described above please contact a member of my staff.

Sincerely,



C. R. Steinhardt
Senior Vice President - Nuclear Power

SLB/jmf

Attach.

cc - US NRC, Region III
US NRC Senior Resident Inspector