

# CATEGORY 1

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SUBJECT: Provides response to NRC request for addl info re C-E sleeve insp plans.

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September 23, 1996

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Ladies/Gentlemen:

Docket 50-305  
Operating License DPR-43  
Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant  
Response to NRC Request for Additional Information Related to CE Sleeve Inspection Plans

Reference: Letter from R.J. Laufer (NRC) to M.L. Marchi (WPSC) dated  
September 20, 1996.

By letter dated September 20, 1996, the NRC staff requested that Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC) provide additional information with respect to the plans for inspection and repair of Combustion Engineering (CE) welded tubesheet sleeves during the 1996 refueling outage. Our response to the NRC request for additional information is provided in the attachment to this letter. Please note that our refueling outage is in progress and the steam generator eddy current inspection is scheduled to start the week of September 29. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact a member of my staff.

Sincerely,

M. L. Marchi  
Manager-Nuclear Business Group

SLB

Attach.

cc - US NRC - Region III  
NRC Senior Resident Inspector

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ATTACHMENT

Letter from M. L. Marchi (WPSC)

To

Document Control Desk (NRC)

Dated

September 23, 1996

**Response to Request For Additional Information  
Related to CE Sleeve Inspection Plans**

**NRC Question 1**

During the licensee's next SG tube inspection, what is the licensee's intent regarding inspection of the upper weld in the existing CE-designed welded sleeves? Include inspection scope and nondestructive methodology(ies) to be used.

**WPSC Response to Question 1**

There are a total of 16 CE-designed welded sleeves in service in the Kewaunee SGs. During the 1996 tube inspection, scheduled to start the week of September 29th, we will be inspecting the upper weld joint of all 16 sleeves using the MRPC +point probe.

**NRC Question 2**

What is the licensee's intention regarding disposition of sleeved tubes with weld zone indications? Include past practice and present intentions. If the licensee intends to leave weld zone indications (WZIs) in service, provide the basis for the acceptability of this practice including the uncertainty in locating the exact position of volumetric flaws.

**WPSC Response to Question 2**

During the 1995 SG tube inspection all 16 CE-designed welded sleeves were inspected using the MRPC +point. During this inspection 15 of the sleeve/tube assemblies were reported as NDD, and one was reported to have a volumetric indication in the weld region. At that time, the one volumetric indication was dispositioned as an artifact of the weld gcometry and was considered acceptable for continued operation. As a result of the Prairie Island Unit 1 inspection, WPSC performed an operability assessment and determined that continued operation until the next scheduled shutdown and tube inspection was acceptable. For the present 1996 inspection, all WZIs detected with the MRPC +point will be plugged (repaired). There is no intent to leave WZIs in service.

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### **NRC Question 3**

We understand a CE topical report addressing the shortcomings found with previous installation practices (e.g., cleaning and NDE methods) is forthcoming. Is it the licensee's intention to adopt this topical report when it is issued? If so, how will the licensee incorporate this topical report into its Technical Specifications for future sleeving?

### **WPSC Response to Question 3**

CE-designed welded sleeves will not be installed during the current 1996 outage. WPSC will submit a Technical Specification (TS) amendment request, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.92, incorporating the revised CE topical report into the applicable TS section prior to any future installation of CE-designed welded sleeves.