





May 16, 1979

(1) Corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved:

As stated in the subject NRC inspection report, the terminations whose conductors had not been wire brushed were cut off and new terminations were made in accordance with the requirements of FP-E-8, Part 2, Paragraph 6.3.2.

In addition, guidance on wire brushing requirements for aluminum conductors was obtained from the three manufacturers approved for supplying termination connectors for power cables. The connector manufacturers (Homac Mfg. Company, Thomas & Betts, and Burndy) have advised that wire brushing of aluminum conductors is not mandatory prior to the application of cable connectors.

Furthermore, tests were performed by Burndy who compared the relative resistance of aluminum conductor terminations which had been accomplished on conductors which had been wire brushed vs. conductors which had not been wire brushed. The relative resistance of the assemblies made with wire brushed conductors compared to those made without wire brushing was essentially the same.

To eliminate the possibility that any aluminum conductor terminations could have been made without having been wire brushed, it would be necessary to remove all existing terminations and to reterminate all aluminum conductor connections. The benefits to be derived from such an approach are insignificant. Therefore, based upon the laboratory tests performed by Burndy and the recommendations of Homac and Thomas & Betts, it is concluded that the wire brushing of aluminum conductors, while it is good industry practice, is not mandatory for accomplishing good terminations.

(2) Corrective steps which will be taken to avoid further items of noncompliance:

To preclude recurrence, a memo was issued to applicable personnel reiterating the requirement to wire brush the conductor prior to connector installation.

(3) Date when full compliance was achieved:

Instructions, via Bechtel memo No. 187, were issued to Field personnel on April 24, 1979.

We trust the Commission will conclude that the actions taken to date are adequate.

Very truly yours,

  
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JRB:mcb

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