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 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 SCHWENGER, A. Licensing Branch 2

SUBJECT: Submits general guidelines to mitigate consequences of channel bowing. Prior to beginning new operating cycle, control rod drive friction test shall be performed for core cells exceeding guidelines.

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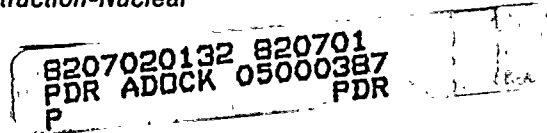
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July 1, 1982

Mr. A. Schwencer, Chief
Licensing Branch No., 2
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
CHANNEL BOX DEFLECTION
ER 100450 FILE 841-2
PLA-1158

Docket Nos. 50-387
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Dear Mr. Schwencer:

The following general guidelines are exercised to mitigate the consequences of channel bowing.

- a. Records are kept of channel location and exposure for each operating cycle.
- b. Channels should not reside in the outer row of the core for more than two operating cycles.
- c. At the beginning of each fuel cycle, the combined outer row residence time for any two channels in any control rod cell should not exceed four peripheral cycles.

Prior to beginning a new operating cycle, control rod drive friction tests shall be performed for those core cells exceeding the above general guidelines or containing fuel channels with exposures greater than 30,000 MWd/T (associated fuel bundle exposures).

In lieu of items b and c and friction testing, fuel channel deflection measurements may be used to justify use of fuel channels exceeding 30,000 MWd/T exposure for a maximum of four additional operating cycles. These measurements will assure achievement of the scram function and thus eliminates the need for items b and c above.

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In the future, analytical channel lifetime prediction methods, benchmarked and backed up by periodic deflection measurements of a sample of the highest duty fuel channels, may be used to ensure clearance between control rod blades and fuel channels without additional testing.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David P. Meyer / Sr".

N.W. Curtis
Vice President - Engineering & Construction - Nuclear

DPM

cc: R.L. Perch - NRC



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