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RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
BUTLER,W.R. Project Directorate I-2

SUBJECT: Part 21 rept re cold formed welded structural tubing supplied by Hub,Inc & mfg by Welded Tube Co of America.

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DEC 07 1989

Harold W. Keiser
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Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Dr. W. R. Butler, Project Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
PART 21 REPORT
PLA-3308 FILE R41-2

Dear Dr. Butler:

Pursuant to 10CFR21, attached is PP&L's report concerning cold formed welded structural tubing supplied by Hub, Inc. and manufactured by Welded Tube Company of America.

This condition was initially identified on September 15, 1989, and determined to be reportable on December 1, 1989. Telephone notification was made the same day to Mr. Jim Stair, Resident Inspector at Susquehanna SES.

Very truly yours,

H. W. Keiser

Attachment

cc: NRC Document Control Desk (original)
NRC Region I
Mr. M. C. Thadani, NRC Project Manager
Mr. G. S. Barber, NRC Sr. Resident Inspector

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IE09
1/1

PART 21 REPORT

COLD FORMED WELDED STRUCTURAL TUBING

Problem

During fabrication of an inverter rack at susquehanna SES, a crack was discovered in the longitudinal butt welded joint of a section of tube steel. Further inspection showed that incomplete welds existed in this material. The material had been used in a number of recent installations at Susquehanna SES.

Source of Material

The suspect material is cold formed welded structural tubing manufactured by Welded Tube Company of America, Chicago, Illinois. It was purchased from Hub, Inc., Tucker, Georgia. Nineteen 20-feet lengths (380 ft.) were purchased. The suspect material is all 4" x 4" x 1/4" ASTM A500 Gr. B, Q, galvanized per ASTM A153, Heat No. Y65143. To the best of our knowledge, this problem is limited to Heat No. Y65143.

Safety Hazard

The safety impact of incomplete welds in tube steel is a significant reduction in its strength. The affect on axial strength is minimal. However, the affect on torsional and bending strength can be significant. The material is used as structural support for safety-related components. The actual safety significance of the defect depends on its ultimate use.

Corrective Action

Of the 380 linear feet of suspect tube steel purchased, 183 ft. has been placed on hold for return to the supplier. The supplier and manufacturer were notified that PP&L was evaluating this material for reportability under Part 21. The supplier indicated that all remaining suspect material was being held pending PP&L's determination. PP&L has no specific information on the use of this suspect material at other facilities.

The suspect material had been installed in six recent modifications. Calculations show that the material strength is adequate for use-as-is. However, PP&L plans to repair 21 conduit supports in three of these installations to assure that full rated capacity is available in the event additional loads are ever added to these supports. As of December 1, 1989, repairs were complete on seven of the supports. Repairs to the remaining 14 are expected to be completed by mid-December. Disposition is provided in NCR's 89-0498 and 89-0487. No further action is required.