



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

May 28, 1980

Docket No. 50-499

MEMORANDUM FOR: File

THRU: *WCE* W. C. Seidle, Chief, RC&ES Branch

FROM: R. E. Hall, Chief, Engineering Support Section

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION REGARDING DEFECTIVE CADWELDS
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NO. 2, DN 50-499

On May 22, 1980, I finally made contact with Individual A, a former Brown & Root Quality Control inspector at South Texas. He had previously conveyed concerns regarding the quality of construction of STP, Unit 2, specifically with respect to Cadwelds, to D. Driskill, a RIV investigator. After several unsuccessful attempts to reach him, I finally contacted his mother on May 22, and she had him call me from his new location in Pennsylvania.

During the discussion, he addressed the following specific points raised to me by D. Driskill:

a. Serious Safety-Related Problems Remaining at STP

He indicated that he had no specific items, but had based his comment to Driskill on general hearsay and newspaper articles he had read since leaving the site.

b. Lack of Second Shift QC Inspection Supervision

During late 1977 and early 1978, second shift had had no QC supervision; however following an IE inspection in mid-1978, Individual B was assigned to the shift as a supervisor and "things got better."

c. Cadwelds for Unit 2 Slab, Elevation 19

During testing of Cadweld samples, using the tensile test machine, a number of sleeve failures were experienced, some of which were below the 90K psi individual test criteria. On average, the running summary of breaks still met the acceptance criteria, and none were below the 75K psi minimum individual break requirement. He was concerned because normal breaks occurred in the rebar or were "pull-outs." He felt that

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the sleeves had been deformed during firing, and that excessive heat had "crystalized" the sleeve material. He reported his concerns to his supervisor who called Engineering. No NCR was initiated nor was any further action taken after Engineering indicated informally that there was no problem.

Based on this discussion, it is my opinion that no problem exists; however, to provide added assurance, Cadweld tensile test records for the Summer of 1979 should be reviewed by the RRI to verify that the "running average", in fact, met the acceptance criteria.



R. E. Hall, Chief
Engineering Support Section

cc: W. A. Crossman
D. D. Driskill
C. E. Wisner
H. S. Phillips
W. G. Hubacek