



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

PALISADES PLANT

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1981 STEAM GENERATOR INSPECTION

SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT

DOCKET NO. 50-255

INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 16, 1981, Consumer Power Company (the licensee) submitted the results of September-October 1981 steam generator inspection at the Palisades Plant. The September-October 1981 inspection followed seventeen (17) months of operation conducted at approximately full power since the previous inspection. Based upon September-October 1981 inspection results, the licensee has requested approval of a new operating allowance (for future degradation) in accordance with Section 4.14 of the Palisades Plant Technical Specifications.

DISCUSSION

Section 4.14 of the Palisades Plant Technical Specification requires establishing of tube plugging criteria based on the operating allowances. When an inspection reveals that the tube degradation plus an NRC approved appropriate operating allowance is greater than the maximum allowable degradation specified in Table 4.14.2, the tube will be declared to be defective and tube plugging or sleeving will be performed. This operating allowance, however, is related to the mean wastage increase (corrosion rate) over the period since the previous steam generator inspection. If the mean wastage increase is less than +1 percent (essentially no wastage), the operating allowances listed in Table 4.14.1 are applicable. If the mean wastage increase is greater than or equal to +1 percent, the licensee must submit new operating allowances to NRC for approval prior to return to operation.

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EVALUATION

We have reviewed the licensee's submittal dated October 16, 1981 regarding the data evaluation and tube plugging performed as a result of the steam generator inspection which took place from September 18 to October 7, 1981. We find the method which the licensee used to estimate the corrosion rate for both A and B Steam Generators acceptable. The licensee estimated less than +1 percent corrosion growth for the A Steam Generator Tubing and 3.09 percent corrosion growth for the B Steam Generator Tubing. Since B Steam Generator does indicate an apparent mean wastage increase of greater than +1 percent, a new operating allowance is required. We concur with the licensee that operating allowance stipulated in Table 4.14.1 be increased from 6 percent to 10 percent to compensate for the 4 percent mean wastage increase of B Steam Generator. This change is consistent with the Regulatory Guide 1.121 and will provide additional assurance that Palisades Plant is safe to return to power operation without adverse effect to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: November 5, 1981