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Gentlemen:

FEEDWATER VALVE MAINTENANCE
SALEM GENERATING STATION
UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-311

This letter documents two telecons held with NRC staff members on June 8 and 12, 1987, concerning maintenance performed on Feedwater Isolation Valve 23 BF-19.

On Monday, June 8, 1987, a packing leak of approximately 1 gallon per minute was observed on the 23 BF-19 valve. The corrective action proposed to stop the leak was to tighten the packing holdown nuts. This action is considered to be a maintenance item in accordance with ASME Section XI, Article IWV-3200, and as such the valve should be tested prior to return to service to demonstrate performance parameters are within acceptable limits.

When the valve packing nuts were tightened, initial loadings were found to be about 10 ft-lbs., which was below the manufacturer's recommended torque of 13 to 17 ft-lbs. The valve packing nuts were tightened to 13 ft-lbs., and then to 17 ft-lbs. However, the leak did not diminish.

After further consultations with the valve packing vendor and a telecon with the NRC Project Manager, the following actions were taken on June 12, 1987.

The packing load was increased from 17 ft-lbs. to 19 ft-lbs., and the leak stopped. The packing was then adjusted an additional 2 ft-lbs. to 21 ft-lbs. Again, there was not evidence of seal leakage. In the vendors judgement, the only consequence of leaving the packing at this setting would be a decrease in the packing life.

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ASME Section XI requires that a timed full stroke test be performed after maintenance on this type of valve. Performance of this test requires shutdown of the unit. In lieu of this test, the valve was partially stroked and responded satisfactorily. Stem movement was observed, thus indicating that the valve stem was not bound by the packing adjustment. A work order was initiated to repack the valve at the next available opportunity.

It should be noted that the 23 BF-13 valve acts as a backup to the main feedwater isolation valve 23 BF-19. Thus the main feedwater system could have been isolated, if necessary, even if the 23 BF-19 stroke time was affected.

If you should have any questions concerning this matter, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

C Mr. D. C. Fischer
USNRC Licensing Project Manager

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USNRC Senior Resident Inspector

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