

Operating Experience of Wear at Thermal Sleeve Flanges

- In April 2018, French utility engineers informed US plants of OE associated with wear of stainless steel thermal sleeve flanges
- Aggressive wear resulted in complete wear-through of thermal sleeve flanges with remnant part of size and geometry that interrupted rod motion during testing at one plant
 - Emergent plant repairs were required, with significant impact to outage duration with unique and challenging first-of-a-kind repairs
- French utility and regulator issued OE notification summaries
- Joint EPRI/PWR Owners Group team assessed potential impacts to US PWR fleet and other international PWR plants
 - NSSS OEM performing safety assessment of OE findings
- EPRI-MRP issued OE notification letter to plant sites to make owners aware of OE and address site-specific risks during upcoming outages (letter MRP 2018-010, dated 4/20/2018)
 - Alert PWR owners that population of plants susceptible to thermal sleeve flange wear was previously identified in TB-07-2 Revision 3
 - Industry will continue to assess findings and identify next actions once safety assessment is complete (end of May 2018)



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