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Dalwyn R. Davidson
VICE PRESIDENT
SYSTEM ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

November 23, 1979

Mr. James G. Keppler
Director, Region III
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

RE: Perry Nuclear Power Plant
Interim Report on 4.16 Kv
Switchgear

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter will serve as an interim report as required by 10CFR50.55(e) on the deficiency concerning ITE 4.16 Kv Switchgear. This item was first discussed in a telephone conversation between Mr. W. J. Kacer of The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and Mr. Jim Konklin of the NRC Region III, Office of Inspection and Enforcement on October 23, 1979.

Description of Deficiency

ITE Corporation was contracted by The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company to manufacture Class IE 4.16 Kv Switchgear for Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Field inspection of four units revealed the existance of cracks and tears at the bottom of the steel enclosures where the metal is bent to allow mounting to embedded channels. Since it is generally felt these cracks and tears could travel the entire length of the bend and could adversely affect the safe operation or shutdown of the nuclear power plant, extensive evaluation and repair will be required to establish the adequacy of the switchgear panels.

Discussion of this problem with ITE representatives revealed that the cracks and tears were caused by low level vibration experienced during shipment of single frame switchgear units. In order to correct this problem ITE has proposed that a hole be drilled ahead of the cracks on the bend line of the sheetmetal to eliminate further cracking and/or tearing, and that a fillet weld be made the length of the crack or tear to provide the necessary strength for seismic mounting.

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It was further pointed out that seismic testing of the single frame unit requires substantial angle iron supports to be installed at each of its four corners in order to survive the seismic environment. An alternate method of support would be to attach three frames together. Therefore, to prevent reoccurance of this deficiency, ITE has proposed that a minimum of three (3) switchgear frames be lotted together and mounted on a single skid for shipment.

At the present time CEI is evaluating the proposed corrective action and steps to prevent reoccurance. In addition, they are evaluating the effect the proposed repair will have on the integrity of the seismic qualification. Based on a satisfactory evaluation of the proposals, an inspection and repair program will be implemented and is expected to be completed by March 1980. A final report will then be submitted by April 15, 1980.

Very truly yours,

Dalwyn R. Davidson

Dalwyn R. Davidson
Vice President
System Engineering and Construction

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cc: Victor Stello, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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