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Consumers Power Company

Stephen H. Howell
Senior Vice President

General Offices: 1945 West Parnall Road, Jackson, Michigan 49201 • (517) 788-0453

May 22, 1979
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Mr James G Keppler, Regional Director
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

MIDLAND PROJECT
DOCKET NO 50-329, 50-330
IE BULLETIN 78-12 AND 78-12A
FILE: 0505.12 SERIAL: 7042

Enclosed are two (2) copies of a letter from James H Taylor of the Babcock & Wilcox Company to Mr Wayne G Reinmuth of the Office of Inspection and Enforcement, US NRC and the Babcock & Wilcox Report "Records Investigation Report Related to Off-Chemistry Welds in Material Surveillance Specimens and Response to IE Bulletins 78-12 and 78-12A - Supplement" dated March 1979 which the Babcock and Wilcox Company provided in response to IE Bulletins 78-12 and 78-12A - Supplement.

Consumers Power Company has reviewed the enclosed B&W report as required by IE Bulletin Supplement 78-12B and is satisfied that the B&W report adequately represents data for the Midland Unit 1 and 2 reactor vessels.

Stephen H Howell

SHH/jbg

CC: Director, NRC Office of Inspection & Enforcement, w/o
Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, w/o

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Babcock & Wilcox

Power Generation Group

P.O. Box 1260, Lynchburg, Va. 24505
Telephone: (804) 384-5111

March 13, 1979

Mr. Wayne G. Reinmuth
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Response to IE Bulletin Nos. 78-12 and 78-12A

Dear Mr. Reinmuth:

Enclosed for your information are three (3) copies of our report entitled, "Records Investigation Report Related to Off-Chemistry Welds in Material Surveillance Specimens and Responses to Bulletin 78-12 and 78-12A Supplement", which we have prepared for our customers in order to facilitate their responses to the bulletins. The report is basically divided into three (3) parts: (1) an introduction and summary of the weld wire issue; (2) general information to support the conclusions we have reached; and (3) specific responses to the information requested by the bulletins. Appendices containing copies of B&W chemical analysis requirements and weld filler wire qualification tests are included as supporting information. The information in the appendices has been selected based on your request at a January 16, 1979 meeting in Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

This report describes the investigations that were made as a result of discovering an off-chemistry condition in a reactor vessel surveillance specimen for the Crystal River 3 (CR-3) Project. The purpose of the records investigation was to determine the cause and extent of the mixed weld wire problem. The investigation also included a review of test results from actual reactor vessel production weld seams to the extent these welds could be investigated, and from reactor vessel surveillance material tests. The investigation covered the period from 1966 through November 1978. In accordance with IE Bulletin 78-12A, our response is given on a generic basis and no attempt was made to correlate specific weldments with heats of filler wire.

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The records investigation provides considerable support for the hypothesis that the presence of atypical chemistry condition in the Crystal River 3 surveillance block is an isolated event involving a small amount of material in one heat of wire.

The general conclusion reached as a result of the investigation of the atypical weld wire discovery is that it is very unlikely that other similar conditions exist in any reactor pressure vessel welds. Furthermore, the shop practices which have evolved over the years and which are currently in effect virtually eliminate the possibility that a vessel fabricated today might contain off-chemistry weld materials.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed material, please contact me (Ext. 2817) or William R. Speight (Ext. 2902) of my staff.

Very truly yours

James H. Taylor
Manager, Licensing

JHT/fw
cc: R. B. Borsum - B&W Rep. Bethesda Office

Enclosures: As stated

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159