

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

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NRC REC

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VICE PRESIDENT AND GROUP EXECUTIVE
SPECIAL SERVICES AND PURCHASING

March 21, 1980

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United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Mr. James P. O'Reilly
Director
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Subject: V. C. Summer Nuclear Station
Unit #1
Reportable Item in Accordance
With 10CFR50.55(e)

Gentlemen:

On February 21, 1980, the Region II Resident Inspector (J. Skolds), was notified of a potential reportable item relative to specification of weld size for branch connections and the possibility of undersize welds. This item has been assigned NRC number 50-395/80-05-07.

Nature of Condition

ASME Section III, Subsection NC 3643.2 and figure NB 3352.4-2 require the reinforcing fillet weld for branch connections to have a minimum throat thickness of 1/4" or 0.7 times the nominal thickness of the penetrating part, whichever is less. It was determined that some of the piping supplier's (Southwest Fabricating & Welding Company, Houston, Texas) drawings and contractor's revisions to these drawings have specified weld sizes that do not provide the minimum throat thickness.

Cause

It appears to SCE&G that a program deviation of some nature occurred at the piping supplier wherein the appropriate weld sizes were not translated into isometric drawings and spool sheets. A Corrective Action Request (CAR) was issued to the piping supplier to apprise them of this condition and request corrective action

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although the SCE&G purchase order with the piping supplier is currently complete. The condition for the Constructor's field drawings occurred because weld details were copied from the piping suppliers drawings which were assumed correct. At this stage, no verification back to the original specification and Code was performed. Hardware fabricated to the incorrect drawings is suspect.

Safety Implications

At present, it has not been determined whether the condition has resulted in deficient hardware. A reinspection program is being established to make this determination, but the probability of welds being undersize, is considered credible. Once inspected and determined unacceptable, the Engineer would need to evaluate each specific condition for each weld to make a determination of the exact safety implications. Because of drawing errors, it is not possible to rule out the potential for some specific undersize weld existing and having safety implications. For this reason, the condition is being classified as potentially reportable with the objective to investigate and correct the condition and the hardware impact, removing any doubt as to product acceptability.

Actions to Correct Conditions

SCE&G is in the process of implementing a controlled program to identify all safety related branch connections, inspect them for acceptability and have all deficient conditions repaired or evaluated by the Engineer. To identify all the involved safety related branch connections, the Constructor's Engineering will review all of their drawings and those of the piping supplier to identify which welds were inadequately specified as to size. The reinspection will then be performed by Constructor's Code QC personnel during the systems completion walkdown inspection for each system performed by the Constructor prior to system turnover. The SCE&G/QC organization will overview the walkdown inspections. All welds rejected as a result of the walkdown inspections will be repaired, reinspected by the Constructor's QC organization for Code purposes and again inspected for acceptance by the SCE&G/QC organization. Piping supplier welds requiring repair will be redesignated as field welds and reworked under the Constructor's Code authorization.

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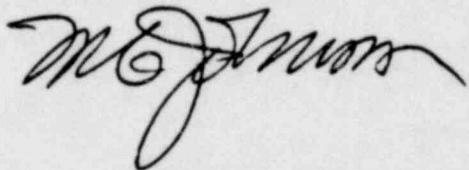
Actions to Prevent Recurrence

Actions have been initiated with the piping supplier to obtain corrective action to the problem identified. The purchase order with this supplier is currently complete and response on their part cannot be mandated. SCE&G will evaluate any corrective actions to this problem received from the piping supplier and utilize the evaluation in terms of future use of the supplier.

In the case of the Constructor, their Engineering personnel have been directed to ensure that specification and Code requirements are met for weld joint configuration and sizes when preparing or revising drawings, and not to rely on information of others. Also, commensurate with other corrective actions in the ASME Code area, procedures were evaluated and prepared to adequately perform reinspection, training will take place, and verified adequate by SCE&G, and SCE&G/QC will overview the Constructor's QC organization during performance of reinspection associated with branch connection welds.

SCE&G believes the actions outlined above will adequately resolve any deficiencies associated with welds of branch connections. Since all necessary actions have been identified and are in the process of being implemented, we consider this a final report on this item. All actions taken regarding this item will be available at the Construction Site for NRC review. Should further information be required, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



DRM/MCJ/jls

cc: C. J. Fritz
G. C. Meetze
Office of Director
Inspection & Enforcement
Washington, DC