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INTERIM REPORT #2, PRD-80/03

I. Background and Description of Deficiency

On February 28, 1980, Mississippi Power & Light Company notified Mr. M. J. Gouge of your office of a deficiency concerning damaged instrumentation cables under the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV). Mr. Gouge was notified at that time of our determination that this matter was not reportable within the meaning of 10CFR50.55(e). This notification was made for information purposes only. On March 6, 1980, Mr. Gouge informed Mississippi Power & Light Company that this deficiency should be considered and processed as a reportable condition.

Some 132 cables located under the Unit 1 Reactor Pressure Vessel were damaged during the installation of control rod drive assembly housings. Damaged cables pertain to the Control Rod Drive Hydraulic System and Neutron Monitoring System. The damage ranges from pinched insulation to insulation cut through to the conductor. This is documented in several Bechtel Nonconformance Reports (NCR) and Condition Reports (CR) and filed under Bechtel MCAR-GGNS No. 62.

Several factors contributed to the occurrence of this deficiency. Primarily the working area under the RPV is quite restricted. Because of this aspect instrumentation cables were installed prior to the installation of the control rod drive housings. We have determined that during the CRD housing installations, adequate measures were not taken to protect the previously installed cables.

II. Safety Implications

Some of the damaged instrumentation cables are associated with safety related equipment, and as such, could have adversely affected the safety of plant operations at Unit 1. This deficiency is thus reportable under 10CFR50.55(e).

III. Corrective Actions

The repair or replacement of damaged cables has been completed for Unit 1. The inspection and evaluation of this corrective action is in progress.

We are currently in the process of determining a suitable means for preventing the recurrence of this deficiency in the installation of cables in Unit 2. This determination will be provided in our final report on this matter.

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