

ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY

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500 SOUTH 27TH STREET, DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62525

October 22, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Keppler:

CLINTON POWER STATION UNIT I  
DOCKET NO. 50-461  
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NO. CPPR-137

On June 25, 1980, Illinois Power Company verbally notified Mr. H. M. Wescott, USNRC Region III, of a potential reportable deficiency per 10CFR50.55(e) concerning suspect cracking in certain hardware for electrical hangers supplied by Midland/Ross Super Strut. An interim report was submitted July 28, 1980, in which we identified the need for approximately ninety days to complete our investigation. While it has been determined that certain hardware fittings are possibly inadequate, the boundaries of the potential deficiency are not sufficiently established. Accordingly, this submittal is an interim report, and it is anticipated that an additional 45 days will be necessary to fully determine reportability and corrective action.

Investigation of Deficient Hardware  
on Electrical Hangers

1. Statement of Reportable Deficiency

The investigation to date has developed insufficient data to define the limits of the deficiency associated with hardware fittings.

2. Investigation Results (to date)

To date, investigation of the potentially defective hardware has consisted of two sets of preliminary tensile tests and on-site visual inspection of all stock hardware.

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Investigation Results (cont'd)

The preliminary tests were (1) to verify loading values of the individual fittings and (2) to verify load transfer characteristics of the fittings in simulated hanger configurations. These tests have identified weld repaired fittings as being inadequate for service. Load bearing and transfer characteristics of the fittings were not conclusively ascertained as a result of this testing.

A visual inspection of all fittings in warehouse stock at the Clinton site revealed that an average of approximately twenty-five percent of the "winged" type fittings had cracking in excess of 1/16" in the bend radius. These fittings and similar ones provided by the supplier are currently undergoing additional testing in the Midland/Ross Super Strut production facility. The Architect-Engineer (S&L), Constructor (Baldwin Associates) and Licensee (Illinois Power) are monitoring this testing program. The objective of these rather comprehensive tests is to definitively determine the load bearing and transfer capabilities of the potentially defective fittings; and, if determined to be inadequate, to establish an inspection criteria for hardware currently installed with electrical hangers at Clinton.

3. Corrective Action

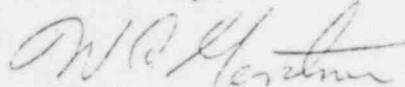
The Midland/Ross Super Strut Company has revised their shop production methods to increase the bend radius in fittings. No significant fractures appear in these new production fittings. A program to replace any fittings showing cracks or weld repair prior to new installation has been implemented. When definitive acceptance criteria is determined from current testing, further replacement of installed hardware may be required. Pending completion of current testing and evaluation of results, Midland/Ross is considering generic deficiency reporting.

4. Safety Implication/Significance

An assessment of significance is deferred until the final report is made.

We trust this report supplies sufficient information to permit initial review. We expect to submit the final report on this issue in December, 1981.

Sincerely,



W. C. Gerstner,  
Executive Vice President

AJB/ph

cc: H. H. Livermore, USNRC Resident Inspector  
Director, Office of I&E, USNRC, Washington, D.C.