PART 21 IDENTIFICATION NO. 80-277-000 COMPANY NAME Swenson

DATE OF LETTER 9/3/80 DOCKET NO. 50-324/325

DATE DISTRIBUTED 9/10/80 p.m. ORIGINAL REPORT [X] SUPPLEMENTARY [ ]

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ACTION:

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE ATTACHED REPORT INDICATES LEAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOLLOWUP AS SHOWN BELOW:

IE [X] NRR [ ] NMSS [ ] OTHER [ ]

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8009150 164

REV. 8/1/80

SWENSON
DIVISION OF WHITING CORPORATION
HARVEY, ILLINOIS 60426 U.S.A.
AREA CODE 312-331-4000

50-324/325

September 3, 1980
S-2920
Reqn. 70346-48

Director, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street
Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia

Gentlemen:

The Swenson Division of Whiting Corporation wishes to advise the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of a problem which Carolina Power & Light Company (Carolina) recently has experienced with a Swenson Calandria Type Radioactive Waste Evaporator installed at its Southport, North Carolina facility. Although Swenson does not believe that the problem involves a reportable defect as defined in 10 C.F.R. Section 21, we deem it appropriate to notify NRC of the problem's existence.

In recent weeks, Swenson answered certain questions raised by Carolina concerning methods of welding to repair leaks in the evaporator vessel (which Carolina had shut down), and subsequently sent a representative to Southport to inspect the vessel prior to the making of repairs. To confirm the soundness of the repairs when made, Carolina hydrostatically tested the evaporator, and advised Swenson on August 8, 1980 that the test results revealed leaks in the heat exchanger tubes, leading to speculation on Swenson's part that the evaporator's exchanger shell, body and tubes had been subjected to corrosive attack (possibly by sea water or brackish water) and that a leak of radioactive material could result.

Accordingly, Swenson advised Carolina by telex on August 12, 1980 that the evaporator had to be thoroughly inspected and, repaired prior to its reactivation. On the following day, Swenson telephoned the NRC's Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia and informed NRC's Mr. Richard Lewis of the situation.

Our latest information of this matter is that Carolina has kept the evaporator unit out of service pending repair of the leaks in the tubes and shel
has asked us to notify it of the cost of a replacement heat exchanger,
cost of which we are now preparing.

The following is a complete list of Swenson Radioactive Waste Evaporators currently installed throughout the world:

Director, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

September 3, 1980
S-2920
Reqn. 70346-48

Location	Type
Commonwealth Edison Company Dresden Plant	Natural Circulation, LTV 25,000 pph Capacity
Enel Senn, Italy	Natural Circulation, LTV
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation 9 Mile Point, New York	Natural Circulation, LTV 6,000 pph Capacity
Tarapur Atomic Power Project Tarapur, India	Natural Circulation, LTV 3,000 pph Capacity
General Electric Nuclenor, Spain	Natural Circulation, LTV 5,000 pph Capacity
Jersey Central Power & Light Co. Oyster Creek, New Jersey	Natural Circulation, LTV 7,500 pph Capacity
Hitachi Japan	Natural Circulation, LTV 6,300 pph Capacity
Carolina Power & Light Company (Brunswick Station) USA	Calandria 50 GPM Capacity
Louisiana Power & Light Company Taft, Louisiana USA (3 Units)	Calandria 20 GPM Capacity
Commonwealth Edison (2 Units) Dresden II and III, USA	Calandria 25 GPM Capacity
Washington Public Power Supply System Washington, USA (4 Units)	Calandria 20 GPM Capacity
Portland Public Power Supply System Portland, Oregon (2 Units)	Calandria 20 GPM Capacity
Washington PUblic Power Supply System Washington, USA (4 Units)	Forced Circulation 10 GPM Capacity

Yours very truly,

SWENSON
Div. of Whiting Corporation

R. C. Bennett
Division Manager

RCB/at
cc: Director, Office of Inspection & Enforcement