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D.E. Gilberts  
Senior Vice President  
Power Supply

May 22, 1981



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

Dear Mr. Keppler:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT  
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22  
Response to IE Bulletin No. 79-26, Rev. 1

The destructive examination of Monticello's most highly exposed control blade has been completed, with the following results, in response to IE Bulletin No. 79-26, Revision 1, Item 4.

- A. The tubes examined were tubes numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 20 and 21 from wing 1 of control blade MT77R. (Tube 1 is the outermost tube).
- B. All of the tubes were visually examined, and the top approximately one-half of each tube was also eddy-current tested. Through-wall defects were found in tube 1 at the following approximate distances from the tube top: 4, 4½, 5½, 9½, 11, 11 3/4, 13½, 16, 20, 26, 29 3/4, and 30½ inches. No through-wall defects were found in any other tube.
- C. The calculated B-10 depletion (percent) for each tube examined versus elevation is:

| <u>Tube</u> | <u>Upper 3'</u> | <u>Upper Mid 3'</u> | <u>Lower Mid 3'</u> | <u>Lower 3'</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1           | 47              | 37                  | 33                  | 7               |
| 2           | 45              | 35                  | 32                  | 6               |
| 3           | 43              | 34                  | 30                  | 6               |
| 4           | 41              | 32                  | 29                  | 6               |
| 5           | 39              | 30                  | 27                  | 5               |
| 7           | 36              | 28                  | 25                  | 5               |
| 10          | 33              | 26                  | 23                  | 5               |
| 12          | 32              | 25                  | 22                  | 4               |
| 20          | 25              | 20                  | 18                  | 3               |
| 21          | 24              | 19                  | 17                  | 3               |

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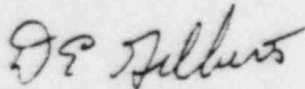
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- D. The only significant loss of B<sub>4</sub>C was found to be in tube 1. The loss front extended from the top end plug down about 33 inches.
- E. The maximum local depletion for tubes having no cracks was found to be 67.98 percent B-10 depletion, near the top of tube 3.
- F. The maximum local depletion for tubes having no loss of boron was found to be 67.98 percent B-10 depletion, near the top of tube 3. (This is the same as item E because the only tube with a crack also showed a loss of boron.)

If additional information is required, please communicate directly with plant management.

Yours truly,



D. E. Gilberts  
Senior Vice President  
Power Supply

cc: Mr. C. H. Brown  
Mr. G. Charnoff  
Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection  
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