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MURRAY R. EDELMAN VICE PRESIDENT NUCLEAR

July 1, 1983

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

> RE: Perry Nuclear Power Plant Docket Nos. 50-440; 50-441 Pipe Whip Restraint Bracket Welds for B21/B33 Systems [RDC 64(83)]

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter serves as the third interim report pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e) on the significant deficiency concerning the bracket welds for the Main Steam and Recirculation System Pipe Whip Restraints. This problem was identified to Mr. Pelke of the NRC Region III Office of Inspection and Enforcement on December 28, 1982, by Mr. E. Parker for The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company. This deficiency was formally reported in our first report, dated January 26, 1983. Our second report, dated April 15, 1983, was submitted to provide additional information on the deficiency.

This report identifies the status of our activities, a description of the corrective action that is presently being implemented, and the planned date for our final report.

Description of Deficiency

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Visual and Magnetic Particle inspection of the completed welds connecting the pipe whip restraint brackets to the drywell structural steel noted three welds with linear indications. Subsequent investigation into the cause of the indications identified that the bracket material was not compatible with the welding code and the pre-qualified procedure that was followed. Details of the cause of this deficiency were described in our previous reports.

Forty-eight Recirculation System and thirty-six Main Steam System Pipe Whip Restraint Brackets supplied by the General Electric, Co., San Jose (GE NEBO) had been installed prior to the identification of this deficiency. Installation of the eight remaining brackets from the Main Steam restraints had been stopped pending final evaluation.

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The extensive testing conducted on the bracket welds to determine the extent of the deficiency and appropriate corrective action has now been completed. At the time of our last report the metallographic testing on the 41 brackets which were not from heat J-02159 was still pending. The results of these remaining tests are now complete and confirm the UT results previously obtained identifying underbead cracking in the weld heat affected zone.

Corrective Action

Based on the results of the testing performed, none of the 84 installed brackets are considered acceptable due to the confirmed existence of defects or the likelihood that defects exist. These brackets have been removed and the structural steel they were welded to is being reworked to its original condition. New brackets will be installed using a new approved welding procedure (WPS 1.1.9.4) which will eliminate the underbead cracking previously encountered. The new procedure requires preheating of the brackets and the base material. The new brackets will additionally receive two layers of added weld material to decrease the hardness properties in the heat affected zone. Testing of completed welds will be in accordance with the original MT requirements for acceptance.

Completion of the above corrective action is scheduled prior to December 15, 1984. Our final report on this subject will be submitted by this date.

Please call if there are additional questions.

Sincerely, lyil m. Shuster for

Murray R. Edelman Vice President Nuclear Group

MRE: pab

cc: Mr. M. L. Gildner NRC Site Office

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