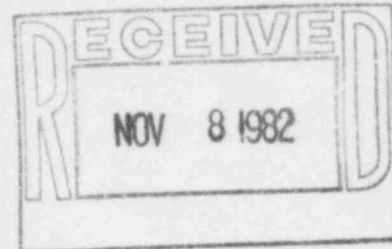


Nebraska Public Power District

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November 5, 1982

Mr. John T. Collins
Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011



Dear Mr. Collins:

Subject: Mark I Modification Steel Problem Investigation
Progress Report Cooper Nuclear Station
NRC Docket No. 50-298, DPR-46

- Reference: (1) J. M. Pilant to John T. Collins, LQA8200192,
dated October 11, 1982
- (2) J. M. Pilant to John T. Collins, LQA8200199,
dated October 20, 1982

By the referenced letters, NPPD has identified and reported on a steel plate problem concerning the Mark I Modification Program. The investigation is still in progress and the purpose of this letter is to provide an updated progress report and indicate the corrective actions planned to date.

I. INTRODUCTION

Reference (2) was the initial status report on the steel plate problem. The problem was determined to be the use of certain plate material in the Torus Attached Piping (TAP) supports which did not meet the specifications for A-36 steel. In addition, it was identified that the steel vendor, Paxton and Vierling Steel Company (PVS) had not maintained the required material traceability. The initial review indicated there was no short-term concern for plant safety resulting from the use of the material. Plans were outlined for further assessment of the situation and for identifying necessary corrective actions.

II. CURRENT STATUS

In order to resolve the questions raised by the lack of material traceability by the steel vendor, Reference (2) indicated that samples of available material would be tested to determine their properties for comparison with the A-36 requirements.

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Review of the A-36 and accompanying A-6 testing requirements indicated that chemical, physical, and macro-etching tests would be necessary to demonstrate acceptability of the material.

Samples of 30 plate and shaped items were sent for laboratory testing. Preliminary reports received to date on physical and chemical tests show the properties meet the requirements of A-36 steel. Pending receipt of the final report on all tests (including macro-etching) it can be concluded that the material is acceptable for installation in the plant.

The question of the use of the laminated plate in 85 pipe supports has been under evaluation since the first status report. The initial review of the application of this material and results of special tests to determine the load capabilities of the laminated plate indicated that the material could possibly be justified for installation. However, the decision has been made to replace all structural members fabricated from 1/2" plate with the PVS identifier P-5637. Structural reevaluations are presently being documented in the calculation files to justify that any nonload bearing material left in the supports does not adversely impact the support. There are 75 supports to be reworked to remove the laminated material and 10 supports justified as is.

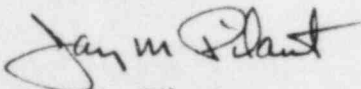
III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Rework on 70 of the supports mentioned above is currently scheduled to be started during the week of November 8, 1982. Completion of this effort is anticipated during December 1982. The remaining 5 support packages are installed in the torus; these items will be reanalyzed.

The final assessment of the material testing will be completed and reported in the next progress report to be submitted on December 3, 1982.

Should you have any further questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Jay M. Pilant
Division Manager of
Licensing and Quality Assurance

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