

ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY



500 SOUTH 27TH STREET, DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62525

U-0443

1605-L

L14-82(03-18)-L

March 18, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Keppler,

Deficiency 82-02
10CFR50.55(e)
E7018 Electrode Determined to
be of Non-ferrous Material



On February 18, 1982, Illinois Power notified Mr. Ken Ridgeway, NRC Region III (Ref: IP letter, Y-7607 dated 2/18/81) of a potential reportable deficiency per 10CFR.50.55(e) concerning the E7018 electrode found to contain non-ferrous material. Our investigation of this matter has not been completed, and this is an interim report per 10CFR50.55(e)(3).

A STOP WORK was immediately initiated to cease all welding on site when it was discovered that improperly labeled electrode may have been used in ferritic welds. All E7018 electrode was withdrawn from the field and collected together with all other E7018 electrode on site to perform an investigation to determine the extent of the problem. In parallel with this action samples from the electrodes in question were analyzed by an independent test laboratory and found to be 309 S.S. wire coated with iron powder/low hydrogen flux, normally utilized with E7018 electrode.

All travelers for in-process welding utilizing E7018 electrode were withdrawn from the field and reviewed for determination of use of electrode from the lot which contained the improperly labeled electrodes. Welds which consumed electrodes from the suspect lot are in the process of being tagged. Subsequently all welding was restored utilizing electrodes from a new vendor except for those welds identified to have consumed electrodes from the suspect lot.

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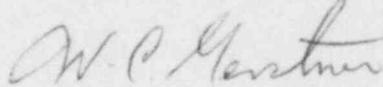
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Since E-7018 electrode was used on various piping and structural welds, a verification will be conducted in order to confirm that the suspect electrode was not used in other plant structures. Currently, the NDE method to be employed for conducting such a verification is being evaluated.

We anticipate that we will need approximately 90 days to complete our investigation of this matter. At such time we hope to be able to provide further details and conclusions regarding the reportability of this potential deficiency.

Very truly yours,



W.C. Gerstner
Executive Vice President

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

WCG/jkg