



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

October 26, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. G. Eisenhut, Director, Division of Licensing, NRR

FROM: R. L. Spessard, Director, Division of Project and Resident Programs

SUBJECT: CRACKS FOUND IN THE RECIRCULATION LOOP PIPING AT MONTICELLO

REFERENCE: Memorandum from R. L. Spessard to D. G. Eisenhut dated October 6, 1982

The referenced memorandum requested NRR's technical assistance regarding cracks in the weld of the endcap on a recirculation loop at Monticello. The licensee has since identified additional cracks in the recirculation piping. Because of the generic issue of cracks in recirculation piping, we request that NRR become the lead office for the resolution of the Monticello matter. This transfer of the lead office from Region III to NRR was discussed in a telephone conversation between Mr. P. D. Walker of Region III and Mr. R. Wessman and Ms. H. Nicolaras of your staff on October 21, 1982.

On October 14, 1982, a meeting was held in Region III to discuss with the licensee the licensee action taken to correct the crack found in the recirculation piping. This meeting was attended by H. Nicolaras and W. Hazelton of NRR. Subsequent to that meeting, we issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to the licensee which documented the following licensee agreements:

1. Submit a report to the NRC for review. This report will include:
 - a. A summary of their 1982 augmented ISI examination program,
 - b. A description of any repairs,
 - c. The basis for establishing the accuracy of UT measurement including the depth of indications
 - d. A description of the methods and analysis used, load combinations, and results of analysis using updated loads,
 - e. An evaluation of reactor recirculation system stresses resulting from repairs, and
 - f. The basis for justifying continued operation with existing indications and repairs.
2. Not return the unit to service without NRC concurrence.

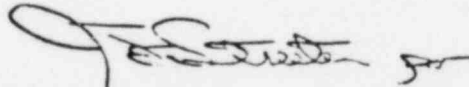
The licensee plans to submit the above report to the NRC by October 26, 1982. The licensee will send copies to H. Nicolaras of your staff and Region III. We request that NRR review the report and notify the licensee and Region III of any action the licensee needs to take prior to returning the plant to service. The present schedule is to return the plant to service on November 7, 1982.

October 26, 1982

For your information, on the morning of October 21, 1982, we were informed that the licensee found two through-wall pinhole leaks while preparing a weld on one of the recirculation loop header risers for a weld overlay. The licensee is evaluating courses of action concerning these holes. We have requested the licensee to not repair them until the NRC has evaluated the proposed repair methodology. We request that you include in your review the disposition of these holes and any subsequent holes or cracks that may be identified.

We will continue to inform Ms. H. Nicolaras of any new developments as they become known to us. With regard to our inspection actions related to this matter, we intend to:

- Review licensee's QA/QC Program and management controls for repair
- Monitor/inspect licensee's repair activities
- Inspect licensee's radiological controls including ALARA considerations



R. L. Spessard, Director
Division of Project and
Resident Programs

cc: H. Nicolaras, Operating
Project Manager, ORB 2
W. S. Hazelton, Division of
Engineering, NRR
R. H. Wessman, Division of
Licensing, NRR
R. L. Baer, Division of Quality
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