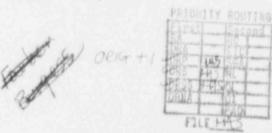




December 24, 1990

Mr. A. Bert Davis Regional Administrator U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III 799 Roosevelt Road Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Subject:

Braidwood Station Unit 1 Loose Parts Monitoring System

Special Report

Dear Mr. Davis:

Technical Specification 3/4.3.3.8 requires that a special report be submitted to the NRC. The purpose of this report is to delineate the cause of sensor channel malfunction, if known, and outline the steps required to correct the malfunction.

Sensor channel IVE-LM009 had previously been declared inoperable and removed from service. Furthermore, sensor IVE-LM010 was declared inoperable due to noise generated by the sensor. A preliminary investigation indicated that the noise was due to malfunctioning sensors in the Unit 1 containment. These sensors are both located on the C Steam Generator inlet/outlet plenum. The failure of both sensors at a natural collection point (Steam Generator C inlet/outlet plenum), constitutes an inoperable system. Therefore, the LCOAR was entered on November 2, 1990. Technical Specification Action Statement 3.3.3.8a requires a special report be submitted to the NRC Regional Administrator, if the channel remains inoperable more than 30 days.

During the next refueling outage (March, 1991) the Instrument Maintenance Department, assisted by Technical Staff will enter the Containment in order to determine the exact cause of the sensor malfunction. The failed sensor channel will be repaired at that time. Also, during the outage, the 18 month surveillance will be performed to ensure that the Loose Parts Monitoring System (LPMS) is functioning properly.

In the interim, the LPMS detectors are aligned to the following sensors: IVE-LMOO2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 18, and 19. Hese sensors correspond to the reactor vessel (bottom and head) and one each at the inlet plenums of Steam Generators A, B, and D and the lower narrow range taps of Steam Generators B and C respectively. These detectors, coupled with the required daily operating surveillances, for audible detection of a loose part, will adequately detect any loose part occurrence until the sensors at the inlet plenum of C can be repaired.

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Mr. A.B. Davis - 2 -December 24, 1990 Please direct any questions to this office. Very truly yours, Allen R.Checca Nuclear Licensing Administrator cc: R. Pulsifer -NRR W.Shafer - RIII Resident Inspector - Braidwood NRC Document Control Desk ARC/cag ZNLD/686