



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 14, 1991

Docket No. 99901115/90-01

Mr. Peter B. Ellis, General Manager
Anchor/Darling Enterprises, Incorporated
32 Moulton Street
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

Dear Mr. Ellis:

This letter addresses the inspection of your facility at Laconia, New Hampshire, conducted by Messrs. Robert L. Pettis and Stewart L. Magruder of the Vendor Inspection Branch on September 17 through 20, 1990, and the discussion of our findings with you and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was conducted primarily to review Anchor/Darling Enterprises' (A/DE's) (formerly Anchor/Darling Industries, Hatfield, Pennsylvania) response and implementation of corrective actions to previously identified nonconformances. In addition, a review of A/DE's present operations including vendor audits, implementation of 10 CFR Part 21, and qualification testing of the mechanical shock suppressor (snubber) product line was also performed.

The inspectors noted that since the last inspection of Anchor/Darling Industries in August 1988, A/DE has developed a 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, QA manual specifically for ASME Code exempt parts and a commercial-grade dedication program which includes a total reclassification of replacement parts for both the mechanical and hydraulic snubber product line. These programs were not in place during the 1988 inspection and were the subject of several nonconformances. As a result, NRC Information Notice No. 88-95 was issued. An implementation review of A/DE's commercial-grade dedication program was not performed during this inspection.

The inspectors determined that the implementation of your Quality Assurance (QA) program failed to meet certain NRC requirements, specifically the lack of documentation necessary to support qualification by load rating of your AD-12500 Series dynA/Damp mechanical snubber which is certified to the 1980 Edition of the ASME Code. The inspectors also determined that since 1983 approximately 100 units have been manufactured by A/DE and supplied to the nuclear industry. However, A/DE stated that these snubbers were supplied to the 1977 ASME Code, or earlier editions, which recognize qualification by analysis not load rating. It is our understanding that A/DE has analytical calculations available to support the load carrying capacity of the AD-12500 model snubber. We acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated September 26, 1990, wherein you committed to performing a total requalification of the AD-12500 model snubber utilizing the load rating approach required in the 1980 Edition of ASME III, Subsection NF, Article NF-3260. This requalification is tentatively scheduled for completion by April 1991.

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The inspectors also identified that spring rate information published in the A/DE catalog for your mechanical snubber product line does not have a documented basis and that A/DE failed to conduct audits or provide for other means of assurance to verify that safety-related suppliers holding Quality Systems Certificates issued by ASME are effectively implementing their QA programs as required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B.

In response to the enclosed Notice of Nonconformance, please provide us within 30 days from the date of this letter, a written statement containing: (1) a description of the steps that have been or will be taken to correct these items; (2) a description of the steps that have been or will be taken to prevent recurrence; and (3) the dates that your corrective action and preventive measures were or will be completed. We will consider extending the response time if you can show good cause for us to do so.

Your response should also include a plan for addressing the possible inadvertent use of safety-related material associated with nonconformance 88-01-04 identified during our August 1988 inspection of the Hatfield facility. A/DE's corrective action to this item was reviewed during our Laconia inspection and resulted in unresolved item 90-01-04. You are requested to evaluate this matter under your 10 CFR Part 21 program and inform us of the status.

The responses requested by this letter are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of the letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room. Should you have any questions concerning the inspection, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

LSJ

Leif J. Norrholm, Acting Chief
Vendor Inspection Branch
Division of Reactor Inspection
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

- 1. Appendix A - Notice of Nonconformance
- 2. Appendix B - Inspection Report No. 99901115/90-01

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