

**Florida  
Power**  
CORPORATION

April 22, 1983  
3F-0483-21

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Crystal River Unit 3  
Docket No. 50-302  
Operating License No. DPR-72  
Upper Core Barrel Bolts

Dear Mr. Denton:

The purpose of this letter is to apprise you of the current status of Florida Power Corporation (FPC) efforts to resolve problems recently identified with upper core barrel bolt integrity at Crystal River Unit 3 (CR-3). Earlier notifications to the NRC were made through prompt report LER 83-018 and through conversations with our Project Manager.

On April 10, 1983, Florida Power Corporation performed an ultrasonic examination (UT) of approximately one half the reactor vessel upper core barrel bolts at CR-3. Out of 61 bolts tested (there are a total of 120), 25 exhibited flaw indications.

These indications to date appear to be similar to those found by Sacramento Utilities at Rancho Seco in March of this year. Aggressive efforts are being made to identify the cause of these anomalies.

FPC has authorized B&W to start the design of a replacement core barrel bolt and the necessary tooling in the event it is needed. Representatives from several utilities with similar B&W reactors met on April 12 with representatives of B&W to discuss the problem and the repair alternatives. A second meeting is scheduled for April 27 in order to outline the latest program and to discuss the generic implications.

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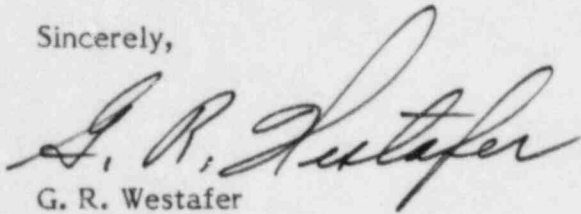
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Defueling of CR-3 was completed on April 21. Following removal of the core support assembly, the lower core support barrel bolts and other areas of interest will be inspected by UT and video. This inspection is scheduled during the week of April 25.

In addition to the above actions, we have been in contact with the other utilities using B&W reactors and have scheduled the barrel bolt problem as a subject of discussion at a B&W Owners Steering Committee Meeting on April 26 in Denver. At this meeting further plans for generic and/or plant-specific actions will be explored.

We will continue to keep the NRC informed as additional information becomes available.

Sincerely,



G. R. Westafer  
Manager  
Nuclear Licensing and Fuel Management

EHD:rw

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly  
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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