KANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

GLENN L. KOESTER
VICE PRESIDENT - NUCLEAR

December 9, 1983

Mr. J. E. Gagliardo, Acting Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

KMLNRC 83-163
Re: Docket No. STN 50-482
Subj: Potential 10CFR50.55(e) Report - Ducting Installation in the Torsion Restraint Area

Dear Mr. Gagliardo:

This letter provides an interim report on a potential 10CFR50.55(e) concerning ducting installation in the torsion restraint area at Wolf Creek Generating Station. This matter was initially reported by Messrs. Chernoff and Rudolph of Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) to Mr. John Jaudon of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Region IV) on November 10, 1983.

During a recent investigation of an allegation made concerning ducting installation at Wolf Creek Generating Station a potential safety concern was identified with the ducting installation in the Torsion Restraint Area, Area Five (5), of the Auxiliary Building at the 2031' elevation.

The specific allegation was as follows:

1. During disassembly of ducting, involving four (4) 45° elbows and subsequent reassembly at least one (1) of the four (4) elbows had to be cut at the corners to decrease its radius.

2. Corners were bent and the "V" gaps welded. The cutting and welding performed was not authorized or documented.

3. Excessive force was used to reassemble the ducting pieces.

Preliminary investigations revealed the following findings:

1. One elbow was cut at the corners and subsequently welded. These welds are of acceptable quality, but were not specifically authorized.

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2. Some of the bolts used to reassemble the ducting pieces appear to be bent and have some thread damage due to interference with the companion flange mounting holes. These are indications that excessive force may have been required to reassemble the ducting.

3. This ducting is not safety-related, but is II/I. The safety concern is that if the ducting failed structurally during a seismic event, it could fall and potentially damage safety-related equipment.

These findings are currently under evaluation by KG&E, the Constructor and the Architect Engineer to determine the safety implications as well as the adequacy of procedures used to control fit-up of ducting.

The status of this evaluation will be reported in KG&E's monthly 10CFR50.55(e) status report. Information concerning significant developments or resolution of this matter will be conveyed by a separate report. In the interim, please direct any questions concerning this subject to me or Mr. Otto Maynard of my staff.

Very truly yours,

Glenn L. Koester

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cc: RCDeYoung
WSchum