



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

JUL 11 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. G. Eisenhut, Director of Licensing, NRR
FROM: J. F. Streeter, Director, Byron Project Division
SUBJECT: STEAM GENERATOR SNUBBER TESTING FAILURES
(APPLICABLE TO BYRON, BRAIDWOOD AND MARBLE
HILL FACILITIES)

In response to an agreement between Region III and the licensee, three of the large steam generator snubbers from the Braidwood Plant (identical to those installed at Byron) were tested during the period June 19 - 28, 1984, at the ITT Grinnell facility in Warren, Ohio, in order to demonstrate the qualification of the snubbers for use at Braidwood and Byron. All three snubbers failed to meet specified requirements. Metallic seals in the snubbers failed to hold the snubber fluid at test loads of only 10 to 33 percent of the rated capacity of 2,400 kips.

There are two of these large snubbers on each of the four steam generators for each reactor unit. Byron, Braidwood and Marble Hill have identical snubbers and to our knowledge are the only facilities having these components. The snubbers were made by Boeing Company prior to Boeing discontinuing business in that area. We will notify the Vendor Program Branch, IE, of this problem because of its possible applicability to smaller snubbers manufactured by Boeing which may be in use at reactor facilities.

Commonwealth Edison has retained ITT Grinnell to evaluate the snubber problem and to assist in the redesign and modification of the snubbers. Region III is continuing to monitor the licensee's efforts. The results of the testing and the status of the licensee's reevaluation efforts will be documented in Inspection Report Nos. 50-454/84-39; 50-455/84-28 which we expect to be issued in about 30 days.

The redesign and modification of the snubbers is not expected to affect the readiness for fuel loading of Byron Unit 1, but could impact activities beyond

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