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Swagelok

CRAWFORD FITTING COMPANY
OLON, OHIO 44139

Part 21

FRED A. LENNON
CHAIRMAN

August 13, 1984

Mr. Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: IE Information Notice 84-55
Seal Table Leaks at PWR's - July 6, 1984

Gentlemen:

We recently received a copy of the above notice regarding fitting leaks at incore probe seal tables.

Since Swagelok Tube Fittings were mentioned by name, we would like to point out that the Swagelok Fittings in question were not being used according to any of our instructions.

1. It is our understanding that the 5/8" O.D. tubing is actually not 5/8" O.D. annealed tubing, but is turned down from very heavy wall pipe to approximately 5/8" O.D. Our fittings are designed for use on fully annealed hydraulic quality stainless steel tubing with a suggested maximum Rockwell hardness of Rb80, and an absolute maximum allowable hardness of Rb90, as required by ASTM A213, A249 and A269. The 5/16" O.D. thimble tube, we are told, is upset from original .300"-.305" diameter tubing to 5/16" O.D. This process would normally work-harden the tubing, possibly to hardness beyond that for which our fittings are designed.
2. During maintenance several washers or spacers are placed at the end of the tube. Ferrules have been actually jacked from their sealing groove by tightening the fitting while the washers are in place.
3. Metal ferrules have been cut-off the tubing and replaced with new ferrules at the same location on the tube, a completely unacceptable practice.

In the case of the Sequoyah incident we have been told that a ferrule of another manufacturer had been interchanged with a Swagelok ferrule in the failed fitting but we have been unable to confirm this.

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CRAWFORD FITTING COMPANY

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Mr. Edward L. Jordan, Director
8/13/84

All the above uses of our fittings are not uses of the fitting as designed. Our long-time successful use in nuclear applications is impugned if we do not advise you of these facts.

Sincerely,


Bill Wilson, Manager
Marketing & Technical
Services

rdk

cc: Washington V & F
Pittsburgh V & F