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U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket Nos. 50-282 License Nos. DPR-42
50-306 DPR-60

Use of a New Fire Retardant Coating for Piping Insulation

A commitment specified in the Prairie Island Fire Protection Program NRC Safety Evaluation Report requires the use of a fire retardant intumescent coating on all polyurethane foam piping insulation in areas containing safety related equipment. The intumescent coating has performed unsatisfactorily and we are switching to a combination of materials which will provide equivalent protection to the intumescent coating.

The intumescent coating becomes very brittle when dry. It easily cracks and flakes off insulation since the insulation remains pliable. This flaking reduces the protection provided and is a maintenance issue.

We have found a combination of materials that provide equal or better protection and remains pliable when dry. This combination is a primer coat of Armaflex followed by two coats of Flammastic. We have reviewed the data available (flame spread and smoke density) on these two materials (Armaflex and Flammastic) and concluded they are better than the intumescent material. We are using this combination for routine maintenance and insulation repair.

Please let us know if you have any concerns with this switch in fire retardant coating for piping insulation.

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