



APPL. Ex. 97

78-03
REF: 57

3. Licensee Action on Previous Inspection Findings

(Open) Noncompliance (352/78-03-03): Nondestructive examination of piping and pipe welds. The inspector reviewed the matters discussed in the licensee's letters of June 12, 1978 and September 18, 1978 and NRC Region I letter of August 24, 1978.

The inspector interviewed 6 of the licensee's contractor nondestructive examination technicians responsible for the performance of liquid penetrant tests of safety-related pipe systems. He discussed the evaluation and disposition of liquid penetrant indications. All of the technicians interviewed appeared to be knowledgeable of the test acceptance criteria and the proper disposition of relevant and nonrelevant indications.

The inspector then witnessed the performance of liquid penetrant tests on the pipe weld end preparation HBC-507-C1072-7-FW8 and pipe weld HBC-182-1/0-FW50, each performed by different technicians. The first test, on the weld end preparation HBC-507-C1072-7-FW8, was accomplished in accordance with the test procedure requirements.

The second test, on the pipe weld HBC-182-1/0-FW50 did not meet procedural requirements of IPPT-340-39-02, Amendment No. 2, paragraph 6.6.3, in that the technician wiped liquid penetrant indications from the part before the 7 minute developer dwell time had expired. The sequence of events were as follows:

- . . . The technician precleaned the part and applied the visible dye penetrant.
- . . . After the appropriate penetrant dwell time, the technician cleaned the part, allowed the proper drying time, and applied the developing powder.
- . . . Approximately 3 minutes into the developing dwell time the technician wiped several penetrant indications from the area of interest and reapplied developing powder to the areas just wiped.

The technician stated that the indications were the result of weld bead ripples and grinding marks and, therefore, not relevant to the test.

The failure to accomplish the liquid penetrant test in accordance with the procedure indicates that effective corrective action was not taken in response to the noncompliance in I&E Inspection Report 352/78-03. This is a repetitive item of noncompliance (352/78-07-01).

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