



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

TIA 83-14

FEB 04 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. G. Eisenhut, Director, Division of Licensing, NRR
FROM: C. E. Norelius, Director, Division of Project and Resident Programs, RIII
SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY - CRACKING IN BORIC ACID SYSTEM PIPING - PRAIRIE ISLAND UNIT 1

This memorandum is written to transfer responsibility for NRC action from Region III to the Division of Licensing for the Prairie Island Unit 1 crack indications in the Boric Acid System piping. We have kept your staff, as well as IE, abreast of this matter since its discovery in late December 1982.

Northern States Power Company (NSP) is in the process of performing ultrasonic examinations of all accessible welds in the boric acid line from the boric acid tanks. A total of 79 welds will be examined. With 11 welds remaining to be examined, 13 crack indications have been identified. NSP is presently proceeding to repair these welds using weld overlays, sleeves, and replacement as appropriate. A 45° elbow with short sections of adjoining piping, in which leaks were identified in the heat affected zone of both elbow welds was removed and shipped to Westinghouse for metallography and study. NSP estimates that Unit 1 will be ready for startup on February 10, 1983.

Unit 2 boric acid piping has been visually examined; no leaks were identified. NSP plans to ultrasonically examine the same Unit 2 piping upon completion of the Unit 1 efforts.

NSP requested to meet with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to present their inspection program, inspection findings and their plans for repairs and replacement of this piping. Through coordination with your staff, this meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on February 8, 1983, in Room P-422 of the Phillips Building. Members of the Region III staff plan to attend this meeting.

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We request that NRP assess the technical and safety aspects of NSP's proposed repairs and plans for continued operation with this potential problem.

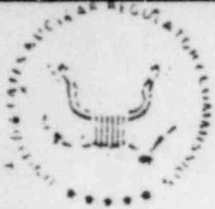
In view of the earlier issuance of IE Bulletin 79-17, "Pipe Cracks in Stagnant Borated Water Systems at PWR Plants," we recommend the Office of Inspection and Enforcement pursue the generic implications of this cracking problem. We understand that IE will be represented at this meeting.

Region III will continue to follow activities at the site and will keep NRR and IE informed as additional information becomes available. Our contact for coordinating the regional effort is D. H. Danielson.

C. E. Norelius

C. E. Norelius, Director
Division of Project and
Resident Programs

cc: E. L. Jordan, IE
D. E. DiIanni, NRR
R. H. Wessman, NRR
J. G. Keppler, RIII



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