

Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

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January 25, 1985

Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Dr. Murley:

POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DEFICIENCY
RUSKIN FIRE DAMPERS MODEL LBD-23
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

On December 24, 1984, a verbal report was made to Region I, Office of Inspection and Enforcement representative, Mr. H. Kister, advising of a potentially significant construction deficiency concerning the performance of spring closure fire dampers supplied by Ruskin Manufacturing Company. The following interim report is provided in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

Ruskin Manufacturing Company issued a 10CFR21 Report concerning the failure and/or reduced performance of spring closure fire dampers which require closure under air flow conditions. Ruskin reports that the test methods originally used to test dampers may not accurately reflect actual field installed conditions. Our Architect/Engineer and Constructor, Bechtel, has informed us that approximately 232 safety related fire dampers, model number LBD-23, are potentially affected. These dampers were supplied to the Hope Creek project on Purchase Order No. 10855-M-716(Q).

In order to determine the extent of the problem, Bechtel is currently attempting to obtain a copy of a Palo Verde project test report which demonstrates acceptable closure of fire dampers up to a limiting air velocity. Additionally, Bechtel is monitoring an ongoing Ruskin test program. Dampers at Hope Creek which cannot be accepted on the basis of these two test programs will be modified accordingly.

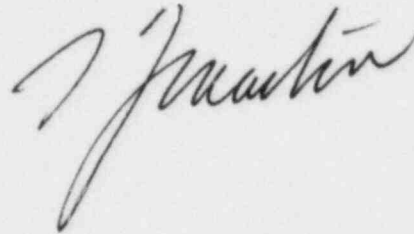
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Our analysis of safety implications is pending identification of specific dampers, if any, which require modification in order to assure proper operation.

We anticipate providing you with our final report on this problem by March 29, 1985.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. J. Martin".

C Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Construction Inspection
Washington, D. C. 20555

NRC Resident Inspector - Hope Creek
P. O. Box 241
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