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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366(4's) (17)

During the Cycle IX-X refueling shutdown, Kewaunee Plant personnel visually inspected three of twenty-nine rod cluster control assemblies [RCCA's] (ROD) for evidence of cladding wear. This inspection was prompted by a recent inspection of RCCA's at another nuclear facility which revealed cladding wear greater than expected. The RCCA's inspected were R-05, R-14, and R-20. These assemblies are of the spider mounted design which contain 16 rodlets per RCCA. The assemblies are compatible with the 14 x 14 fuel design used at the Kewaunee Plant and contain silver, indium and cadmium as an absorber material.

The inspection was performed during the last week in March, 1984, using an underwater TV camera coupled with videotape recording equipment. The results were recorded on five videotapes and revealed apparent wear marks on the surfaces of the RCCA absorber rodlets. The wear marks are about one inch in length and are located at an elevation which corresponds to the guide cards, which are used to position the rodlets in the guide housing, when the RCCA's are fully withdrawn (at 228 steps) from the core. The wear is postulated to occur as a result of the vibratory interaction (fretting) between the rodlets and the guide cards during long periods of steady state power operation. This fretting is characteristic of the design of the guide cards.

Based on a detailed review of these videotapes, Westinghouse has concluded that none of the inspected RCCA's exhibit wear in excess of Westinghouse's wear criteria. They have also concluded that at a minimum, the RCCA's currently in use during Cycle X can be safely used through the end of Cycle XI without performing a detailed visual inspection during the Cycle X-XI refueling shutdown.

Westinghouse has also suggested that by changing the normally parked position of all the RCCA's by 2-3 steps, fretting in existing areas can be minimized and the lifetime of the RCCA's could be extended. WPSC has revised the normally fully withdrawn position of the RCCA's from 228 steps to 226 steps.

Although this event does not meet the reporting criteria of 10 CFR 50.73(a), it is being reported as an LER which may be of generic interest.

The safe, functional operation of the RCCA's is ensured, and there is no impact on public health and safety.

WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION

P.O. Box 1200, Green Bay, WI 54305

Public Service

October 31, 1984

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Document Control Desk Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Docket 50-305 Operating License DPR-43 Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant Reportable Occurrence 84-003-01

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.73 "Licensee Event Report System", the attached Licensee Event Report for reportable occurrence 84-003-01 is being submitted.

Very truly yours,

SIHE

D. C. Hintz Manager - Nuclear Power

JGT/js

Attach.

cc - INPO Records Center Suite 1500, 1100 Circle 75 Parkway Atlanta, GA 30339 Mr. Robert Nelson, NRC Resident Inspector RR #1, Box 999, Kewaunee, WI 54216 Mr. S. A. Varga, Chief US NRC, Washington, DC 20555 Mr. J. G. Keppler, Regional Administrator Region III, US NRC, 799 Roosevelt Road Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

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