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March 16, 1987

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

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414
McGuire Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370
Ice Condenser Door Surveillance

Gentlemen:

By letters dated July 12, 1985, August 7, 1985, November 8, 1985, April 14, 1986 and September 18, 1986 we provided discussions of proposed revisions to the McGuire and Catawba Technical Specifications. The proposed revisions would change the required surveillance interval for the ice condenser lower inlet doors from their current frequencies (50% every 9 months for McGuire and 25% every 6 months for Catawba) to require a 100% inspection every 18 months.

The proposed test frequency will provide at least the same amount of assurance that any random door failure will be detected as does the current requirements. For McGuire, testing 50% of the doors every 9 months will be equivalent to testing all of the doors every 18 months. Since the doors are not tested at random, that is the first half of the doors are tested at one time and the second half of them are tested the next time, the time between tests for any particular door will still be 18 months. For Catawba, the proposed change will add conservatism to the test frequency. By testing 25% of the doors every 6 months, there is a span of 24 months between tests for any one door. The new Surveillance interval would allow a maximum of 18 months between the tests for any one door. Therefore, the proposed amendment is at least as conservative as the current Specifications.

My September 18, 1986 letter mentioned 6 incidents at Catawba where lower inlet doors failed to meet the acceptance criteria. Subsequent retesting of the affected doors showed all acceptance criteria met with no adjustments or repairs having been made. This indicates that the previous test data was likely inaccurate - possibly because the crew, which had no training or experience on this procedure, did not set up the test equipment properly. The test procedure was subsequently revised to more clearly specify how the test equipment is to be set up.

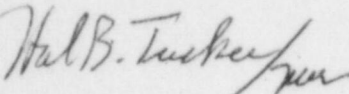
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Therefore, based on 10 years of test data at McGuire and approximately 3 1/2 years of data from Catawba, there is no indication of any degradation of the ability of the ice condenser lower inlet doors to function as required.

Very truly yours,


Hal B. Tucker

RWO/31/sbn

Attachment

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