



PROMATEC

PROGRESSIVE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Q.100.87.103

June 23, 1987

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Reactor Inspection and Safeguards
EWS 312
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Mr. Ellis Merschoff

Reference: Promatec Letter No. Q.100.87.72
Notification of silicone foam
seal anomalies at Wolf Creek

Gentlemen:

As requested by Mr. Joseph Petrosino during a telecon on June 10, 1987, the attached is a copy of the notification letter advising past customers of silicone foam seal anomalies at the Wolf Creek Generating Station. Plants on distribution include Callaway, Riverbend, Waterford, Shearon Harris, Duane Arnold and Fort Calhoun. ^{48%} ^{45%} ^{35%} ^{40%} ^{77%}

Sincerely yours,

PROMATEC

R.W. Brown
Quality Assurance Manager

RWB/djc

cc: R. Block
R. Pearson
G. Brault
C. Spriggs
File

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PROMATEC

PROGRESSIVE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Q.100.87.72

May 18, 1987

Mr. Robert Martin
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Reference: Notification of deviations at
Wolf Creek Generating Station

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to discussions with Mr. James Gagliardo of USNRC Region IV on Friday, May 15, 1987 at 10:45 a.m. this report constitutes written notification of the existence of silicone RTV foam seals at the Wolf Creek Generating Station that do not conform to minimum requirements. This report is a culmination of information collected by both Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation and B & B PROMATEC, Inc.

On Friday, May 8, 1987 at approximately 4:30 p.m. PROMATEC was contacted by representatives of the Wolf Creek Generating Station and advised that a sample inspection of silicone RTV foam seals revealed several discrepancies which were raising concerns that a generic problem may exist with silicone RTV foam seals. The sample inspection consisted of forty (40) seals of which twenty-one (21) were determined as not meeting minimum requirements for reasons such as voids, shrinkage and lack of fill. PROMATEC concurred that the discrepancy rate was cause for concern and dispatched a representative to Wolf Creek with the objective of determining the nature and extent of the problem.

On Monday, May 11, 1987 the PROMATEC representative began an independent re-inspection of the twenty-one rejected seals in an effort to gain firsthand knowledge of the extent of the problem. Although the reinspection indicated that the actual number of rejectable seals was fourteen (14), PROMATEC and Wolf Creek representatives continued to be in agreement that the discrepancy rate was cause for concern.

On Wednesday, May 13, 1987 the writer met with Wolf Creek representatives to evaluate the information collected to date and to determine the proper course of action. Based on the fact that the types of seal discrepancies identified would allow at least limited operability and adequate fire watch personnel were posted, it was determined that the safe operation of the plant was not compromised; however, it was agreed that due to the possibly generic nature of

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To: Mr. Robert Martin
From: Mr. R.W. Brown

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the problem and the lack of conclusive evidence concerning the potential for a substantial safety hazard, the condition would be reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for assistance in determining appropriate disposition.

The number and location of discrepant seals is presently limited to the fourteen (14) previously identified in this report; however, the reject rate of the first sampling taken indicates a need to perform additional inspections to either rule out or substantiate a generic problem with RTV foam seals. The existence of similar problems at other facilities is indeterminate at this time; however, considering the industry wide use of silicone RTV foam as a fire sealant, the potential exists for such conditions elsewhere.

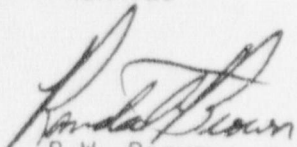
PROMATEC and Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation are presently evaluating various methods for correcting each discrepant seal, including any identified during the reinspection process. Until such time that the cause of shrinkage and voids in some seals is determined, we have recommended that silicone RTV foam not be used as a repair material at Wolf Creek. Alternate methods of repair under consideration include the following:

- 1) Fire rated adhesive sealant for voids and shrinkage. An evaluation is currently in progress to determine the design limitations of this method based on an extrapolation of fire tests previously conducted which qualified certain types of adhesive sealant as a primary seal.
- 2) PROMATEC LDSE or TS-MS-0045B for seals with inadequate fill. In cases where sufficient depth in the penetration exists these products may be installed against the existing foam seal without necessitating removal. We are also in the process of evaluating both products as a potential repair material for voids and shrinkage that exceed limitations established for adhesive sealant.
- 3) PROMATEC Promaflex in cases where existing seals must be removed or when design movement of penetrating items preclude the use of rigid seals such as LDSE or TS-MS-0045B.

Due to the indeterminate scope of this problem, we are unable to provide an accurate schedule for completion of corrective actions at this time. Preliminary evaluations on acceptable methods of repair will be completed by Friday, May 22, 1987. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Sincerely yours,

PROMATEC



R.W. Brown
Quality Assurance Manager

RWB/djc

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