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SUBJECT: RO: on 870708, three mechanical penetration fire seals found inoperable for more than 7 days. Caused by thermal movement of steam generator blowdown piping in mechanical penetrations. Seals repaired & restored to operable status.

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H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-261
LICENSE NO. DPR-23
30-DAY SPECIAL REPORT - FIRE BARRIER PENETRATION SEALS

Dear Sir:

On June 8, 1987, at 1500 hours, three mechanical penetration fire seals had been inoperable for more than seven days. Technical Specification 3.14.7.2.c requires that fire barrier penetrations be restored to operable status within seven days or a report to the Commission is to be prepared within the next thirty days outlining the action taken, the cause of the inoperable penetrations, and plans and schedule for restoring the fire barrier penetrations to operable status. Technical Specification 6.9.3.1.d makes a similar requirement.

At 1600 hours on June 1, 1987, the three mechanical penetration fire seals - MP-2653.11FP, MP-2653.12FP, and MP-2653.13FP - were found degraded as a result of thermal pipe movement. These Steam Generator Blowdown line penetrations were declared inoperable, pending repair. On June 6, the seals were repaired under the Corrective Maintenance procedure for fire barrier penetration seal repair and the 24-hour cure time for the RTV foam was started. During the cure, however, the Plant went to cold shutdown for reasons unrelated to this event, and thermal pipe movement again degraded the seals. The subsequent repair time required the seals to be inoperable for more than seven days.

Following return of the Plant to a hot shutdown condition, the three mechanical penetration fire seals were again repaired. All three were restored to an operable status at 1430 hours on June 16, 1987.

CAUSE

During Plant heatup recently, thermal movement of the Steam Generator Blowdown piping in the mechanical penetrations had degraded the penetration fire seals. During the cure time for the repair, Plant heatup occurred again and caused the penetration fire seals to remain inoperable longer than seven days.

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CORRECTIVE ACTION

The three Steam Generator Blowdown piping mechanical penetration fire seals have been repaired and restored to an operable status. Throughout the time period when the seals were inoperable, the fire detection systems covering the fire areas on either side of the penetrations were operable, in accordance with Technical Specification 3.14.7.2.a.

Thermal movement of the Steam Generator Blowdown piping in mechanical penetrations during Plant heatup is considered a potential source of degradation to the penetration fire seals. Long-term corrective action is still under consideration to preclude recurrence. As compensatory action, however, the condition of the seals will be monitored for degradation during Plant heatup and repaired as necessary.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact my staff.

Very truly yours,

R. E. Morgan
General Manager
H. B. Robinson S. E. Plant

DAS:leh

cc: J. N. Grace
H. E. P. Krug