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RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
KNIGHTON, G. W. PWR Project Directorate 7

SUBJECT: Responds to 851202 telcon request for addl info re assurance of operability of charging pumps. NDE will be performed on charging pumps to extent practical w/o component disassembly, utilizing appropriate technique.

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December 4, 1985
ANPP 34166 EEVB/TFQ

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. George W. Knighton, Project Director
PWR Project Directorate #7
Division of Pressurized Water Reactor Licensing - B
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
Unit 2
Docket No. STN-50-529
Charging Pump Operability
File: 85-056-026; G.1.01.10

Reference: (A) Telecon between the NRC Staff (F.J. Miraglia, G.W. Knighton) and ANPP (E.E. Van Brunt, Jr., J.G. Haynes, W.F. Quinn) on December 2, 1985.
(B) Letter from E.E. Van Brunt, Jr., ANPP, to G.W. Knighton, NRC, dated November 29, 1985 (ANPP-34127) Subject: Charging Pump Operability.

Dear Mr. Knighton:

During the Reference (A) telecon, NRC discussed the remaining concerns related to assurance of the operability of the PVNGS charging pumps. Our response to those concerns are provided in the attached discussion.

Please contact Mr. W.F. Quinn, of my staff, if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Van Brunt

E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
Executive Vice President
Project Director

EEVB/TQ/dk
Attachment

B001
1/1

cc: R.P. Zimmerman
E.A. Licitra
M. Ley
A.C. Gehr
F.J. Miraglia

ATTACHMENT

A. As discussed in Reference (B), we do not believe it is necessary to declare a charging pump inoperable based solely on the indication of a cracked block. However, to address the concern of the potential adverse effects of gas binding of a charging pump with a thru-wall cracked block, we will declare the charging pump inoperable within 72 hours of the apparent thru-wall crack discovery. This period of time will allow a thorough examination of the affected charging pump to verify a thru-wall crack does exist or allow the restoration of an inoperable charging pump, if necessary, to meet the Technical Specification requirements. If, at the end of this 72 hour period, the discovered crack has been confirmed to be a thru-wall crack, and less than the required number of charging pumps are operable, Unit 2 will follow the action statement of Technical Specification 3.1.2.3 or 3.1.2.4, depending upon the plant mode. This condition will be effective starting with initial criticality, and remain in effect until the evaluation of the effect of gas binding an operating charging pump which has a pre-existing block crack, committed to in Reference (B) (Item E of the Attachment), has been satisfactorily resolved with the NRC.

B. As discussed in Reference (B) we do not believe it is necessary to perform a non-destructive examination (NDE) of the charging pumps on Unit 2. However, to collect baseline data, we will perform an external NDE on the Unit 2 charging pumps to the extent practical without component disassembly, utilizing the appropriate technique. This examination will be completed prior to Unit 2 initially exceeding 5% power.

C. The interim operation of the charging system requires procedures for venting of hydrogen from a charging pump(s) which has become gas bound. This venting should not pose a hazard to the operators performing the venting, nor should it result in an uncontrolled or unmonitored radioactive release. Procedures will be submitted for staff approval and a demonstration of the venting procedure will be performed prior to Unit 2 initial criticality.

While the proposed enhancements to the VCT level indicator and outlet valve of the VCT lessen the likelihood of the charging pumps becoming gas bound, a long-term solution to reduce this potential hazard to the pumps should be considered to achieve an appropriate level of system reliability. The long-term solution should be established by an engineering evaluation considering alternative hardware changes necessary to eliminate the need for venting hydrogen from the suction of the charging pumps. The engineering evaluation should include the schedules for procurement and installation of the selected solution. A description of the evaluation and schedules should be submitted for staff approval by June 30, 1986.