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SUBJECT: Forwards "Unit 3 Mid-Cycle SG Inspection."

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WILLIAM F. CONWAY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR

102-02797-WFC/RAB/JRP

January 25, 1994

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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- REF: 1. Letter #102-02730, dated November 17, 1993 from J. M. Levine,
Vice President, Nuclear Production, APS, to USNRC
2. Letter #102-02716, dated November 2, 1993, from W. F. Conway, Executive
Vice President, Nuclear Production, APS, to USNRC

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 3
Docket No. STN 50-530
Steam Generator Inspection
File: 94-056-026

This letter is transmitting the results of the Unit 3 mid-cycle steam generator inspection. The Steam Generator Inspection Plan was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by Reference 1.

The Unit 3 steam generators were inspected during the recent mid-cycle outage (U3M4) using Eddy Current Testing (ECT) technology comprised of both bobbin coil probe and motorized rotating pancake coil (MRPC) probe. The inspection found no evidence of axial cracks in the upper hot leg area as was identified by analysis and inspection during the Unit 2 refueling outage (U2R4). This inspection did identify volumetric indications in both steam generators and circumferential cracking at the top of the tubesheet (hot) expansion transition region in steam generator 32. There were three single circumferential indications (SCI) and one multiple circumferential indication (MCI). This cracking was characterized as inside diameter initiated. All tubes with circumferential cracks were removed from service by plugging.

The safety significance of the circumferential cracking in Unit 3 is bounded by Regulatory Guide 1.121 analysis, which was performed for Unit 1 during the fall 1993 refueling outage and transmitted to the NRC by Reference 2.

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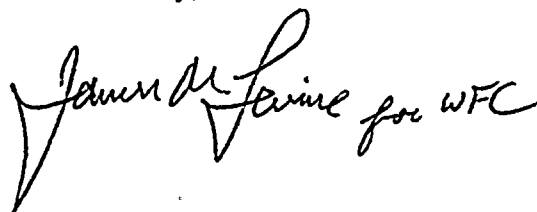


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The probability of occurrence or the consequences of an accident previously evaluated is not increased as a result of the circumferential cracking in Unit 3. The four circumferential cracks found in Unit 3 are bounded by in situ pressure tests and analysis conducted for Unit 1, which verified that the margin of safety specified in Regulatory Guide 1.121 was maintained. The observed crack sizes indicate that Regulatory Guide limits were not exceeded during the past cycle of operation. Therefore, it can be concluded that operation of Unit 3 until the end of its cycle would not constitute a safety concern.

Enclosed with this letter are copies of the Unit 3 Steam Generator Inspection Report. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard A. Bernier at (602) 393-5882.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James McFarlane for WFC". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

WFC/RAB/JRP/dld

Enclosure

cc: K. E. Perkins
B. E. Holian
K. E. Johnston

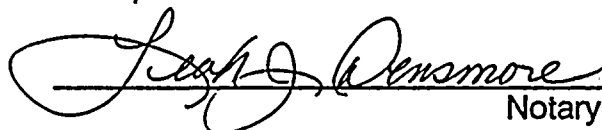
STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

I, J. M. Levine, represent that I am Vice President Nuclear Production, that the foregoing document has been signed by me on behalf of Arizona Public Service Company with full authority to do so, that I have read such document and know its contents, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made therein are true and correct.



J. M. Levine

Sworn To Before Me This 25th Day Of January, 1994.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires

May 16, 1994

