



AEP:NRC:1059

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Unit Nos. 1 and 2
License Nos. DPR-58 and DPR-74
Docket No. 50-315 and 50-316
THIMBLE TUBE THINNING ISSUE

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

Attn: Dr. T. E. Murley

October 26, 1988

Dear Dr. Murley:

This letter responds to your staff's concerns regarding thimble tube thinning as expressed in NRC Bulletin No. 88-09, dated July 26, 1988, titled "Thimble Tube Thinning in Westinghouse Reactors."

Upon the advice in NRC Information Notice 87-44, dated September 16, 1987, we performed an eddy current inspection of the thimble tubes at Cook Nuclear Plant Unit 2 at the first opportunity in April/May 1988. The results, which were presented to the NRC in a July 18, 1988 meeting, indicated a thinning of sufficient magnitude to warrant replacement of all the tubes. Because of the long lead time associated with the procurement, we ordered 116 new tubes, a sufficient number to replace all 58 thimble tubes in both Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Our plan is to replace the thimble tubes during the current Unit 2 outage (steam generator replacement). The Unit 1 tubes are scheduled to be replaced during the Spring 1989 refueling outage. After the new tubes are installed, we intend to perform an eddy current examination in both units. This will establish baseline data that may be used for comparison with data from future examinations.

During the first refueling outage subsequent to the installation, currently scheduled for August 1990 for Unit 2 and November 1990 for Unit 1, we intend to eddy current inspect all 58 tubes in each unit. The data obtained will be compared to the respective

TE19
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11. 2

$$\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+ \quad (1)$$

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[illegible][illegible]

baseline data, and the results of these comparisons will be used to help establish individual inspection and trending programs for each unit.

These programs will specify the frequency of future thimble tube inspections, the acceptance criterion, and corrective action required. The programs will be submitted to your staff, in writing, within 60 days of receipt of the analyzed data from the eddy current inspection consultant. The programs will allow for changes in the frequency of testing as well as changes in the acceptance criterion. More or less frequent testing will be determined by the condition of the tubes. These changes may be made to reflect a trend observed in the eddy current data, or some updated information regarding this issue. Any changes made to either program will be reported to your staff, in writing, within 60 days of the change.

A summary of our plan to establish thimble tube inspection programs and approximate dates of implementation is given in Attachment 1.

This document has been prepared following Corporate procedures which incorporate a reasonable set of controls to ensure its accuracy and completeness prior to signature by the undersigned.

Sincerely,



M. P. Alexich
Vice President

MPA/pd

Attachment

cc: D. H. Williams, Jr.
W. G. Smith, Jr. - Bridgman
R. G. Callen
G. Charnoff
A. B. Davis
NRC Resident Inspector - Bridgman
G. Bruchman

Attachment to AEP:NRC:1059

Attachment 1

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>CURRENTLY SCHEDULED DATE</u>
1) Replace thimble tubes in Unit 2 and baseline eddy current.	1/89
2) Replace thimble tubes in Unit 1 and baseline eddy current.	4/89
3) Eddy current test Unit 2 tubes at first refueling outage.	8/90
4) Submit Unit 2 thimble tube testing program.	11/90
5) Eddy current test Unit 1 tubes at first refueling outage.	11/90
6) Submit Unit 1 thimble tube testing program.	2/91

