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SUBJECT: Provides present plans for addressing CRDM housing issue at plant.

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Gentlemen:

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2
PART LENGTH CONTROL ROD DRIVE MECHANISM (CRDM) HOUSING ISSUE

In a letter to Mr. Frank J. Miraglia, Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Regulation, WOG-98-037, dated March 6, 1998, the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) responded to the NRC's formal request to activate the regulatory response group (RRG), and address concerns regarding the generic implications of the part length CRDM housing issue identified at Prairie Island unit 2.

Letter WOG-98-037 documented the information provided by the WOG during a meeting held with the NRC on February 27, 1998. At that meeting, the WOG presented information regarding the current assessment of the CRDM housing issue and the activities planned to continue to resolve the potential generic concerns. The condition assessment report provided to the NRC emphasized that the incident is an isolated one, and that it is unlikely to occur in other housings. Furthermore, even if it were to occur and it led to severance of a part length housing, the event has already been considered as part of the plant design basis; therefore, there is no safety concern.

The affected WOG member utilities met on March 2, 1998, to review and discuss the same information presented to the NRC. The outcome of this meeting was the formation of a subgroup that will continue to support Westinghouse member utilities in responding to this issue. From the discussions at that meeting, the WOG RRG recommended that the affected utilities voluntarily consider notifying the NRC of their plans to address this issue. For plants currently in refueling or cold shutdown, it was recommended that the utilities docket their plans to address this issue within thirty days, or prior to startup.

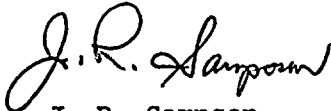
This letter provides our present plans for addressing the CRDM housing issue at Cook Nuclear Plant.

An ultrasonic inspection of the eight part length CRDMs will be performed for units 1 and 2. The inspection will be performed on the upper and lower pressure housing full penetration welds using a qualified ultrasonic inspection procedure for flaw detection.

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The unit 1 and 2 inspections are scheduled to start in early May 1998. The inspections will be completed in both units prior to restart. Further actions will be based on inspection results.

Sincerely,



J. R. Sampson
Vice President

/vlb

c: J. A. Abramson
A. B. Beach
MDEQ - DW & RPD
NRC Resident Inspector