

*Central
Mail*

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER Service Corporation



2 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10004
(212) 422-4800

JOHN TILLINGHAST
Vice Chairman
Engineering and Construction

December 29, 1976

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Unit No. 1
Docket No. 50-315
DPR No. 58

Mr. J. G. Keppler, Regional Director
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter is in response to your letter of November 26, 1976, which was received on November 29, 1976, and which transmitted to us IE Circular No. 76-06 entitled, "Stress Corrosion Cracks in Stagnant, Low Pressure Stainless Piping Containing Boric Acid Solution at PWR's." You requested that we provide a description of our program for assuring continued integrity of safety-related piping systems which are not frequently flushed, or which contain non-flowing liquids, and for performing hydrostatic testing in accordance with ASME Code Section XI Rules for certain active systems. You also suggested that we consider volumetric examination of certain circumferential pipe welds by non-destructive techniques which are generally in accordance with Appendix I of Section XI.

You requested a report describing our program and a schedule for these inspections within 30 days after receipt of your letter, with a summary report of the examination 60 days after completion of the inspections.

JAN 3 1977

Our Nation's 200th Year

1976

Our Company's 70th Year

*201
2*

December 29, 1976

Since we received your letter, we have been working on a program which (a) defines those portions of safety-related piping systems which come under the criteria of not being frequently flushed, or containing non-flowing liquids, (b) considers hydrostatic testing for safety-related piping, (c) attempts to define the appropriate non-destructive examination techniques, and (d) develops a schedule for the inspections which can be made at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Unit 1.

With regard to the concern about piping systems "not frequently flushed," the Residual Heat Removal system at the Cook Nuclear Plant has been in service six times since startup in January, 1975.

Relative to the incidents that occurred on specific piping systems at other nuclear units as noted in Circular 76-06, in the course of our review, we noted that the high pressure safety injection piping from the charging pumps is flushed regularly up to the containment isolation valves. Between the isolation valves and the reactor coolant loop, the piping has been flushed six times since startup in January, 1975. The suction piping on the safety injection pumps is flushed every month as required by our technical specifications.

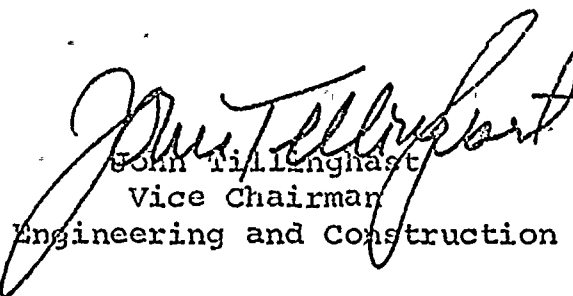
On December 23, 1976 we took Unit 1 out of service for its first refueling outage. Many of the people who are involved in defining and implementing the program outlined in IE Circular 76-06 have been occupied with preparing for the outage and are now participating in it. We expect the Unit outage to last about 8 weeks. While we have gotten a good start in defining the major piping systems coming under the "not frequently flushed" category, we need more time to have this reviewed at American Electric Power Service Corporation, by the plant staff, and possibly by outside in-service inspection contractors. We therefore request an extension of the date for providing the information requested in items 1 and 2 of your letter to April 15, 1977.

In the interim we will continue the surveillance requirements of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Technical Specifications regarding leak detection and operability of safety-related equipment together with our response to FSAR Question 6.6 regarding in-service inspection of other fluid systems.

December 29, 1976

We appreciate your informing us of the several incidents of through-wall cracking which occurred in other nuclear power plants. Let me assure you that we are aware of those incidents and intend to take the appropriate measures to make sure that we have a program for inspection, detection, and correction of those problems should they occur at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant.

Very truly yours,


John Tillinghast
Vice Chairman
Engineering and Construction

JT:mam

cc: Gerald Charnoff
R.C. Callen
P.W. Steketee
R. Walsh
R.J. Vollen
R.S. Hunter
R.W. Jurgensen - Bridgman
Dr. Ernst Volgenau, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

