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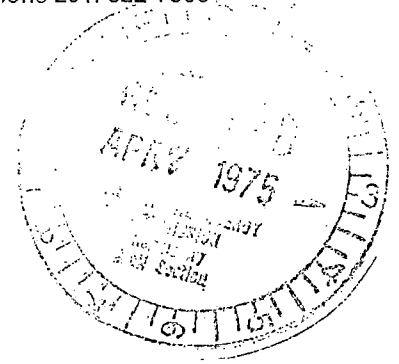
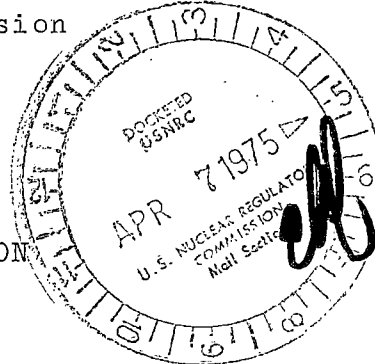
March 31, 1975

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

Mr. A. Giambusso, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

STEAM GENERATOR TUBE EXPANSION
NO. 1 AND 2 UNITS
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
AUTHORIZATION A-6267.1
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311



Beginning in mid-April, 1975, the steam generator tubes of Salem No. 1 and 2 Units will be explosively expanded within the tube-sheets. The expansion operations were recommended by Westinghouse and will be implemented under their direction on-site. The process, called WEXTEx by Westinghouse, involves detonating polyethylene-covered explosive charges within the Ni-Cr-Fe tubes, thereby reducing the tube-to-tubesheet crevice from approximately 0.0075-inches (radially) to 0.001-inch. The motivation for reducing the crevices is additional conservatism of design with respect to possible accumulation of corrosion-inducing impurities in the crevices.

The WEXTEx explosive tube expansion process was first applied at the Diablo Canyon No. 1 Unit of Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The plant was instrumented with accelerometers, strain gages, pressure transducers, and other sensors, and the results of that test program have revealed no adverse effects upon NSSS equipment. Similar processes utilizing substantially more powerful explosive charges are commonly used in manufacturing similar heat exchangers. New Westinghouse steam generators have mechanically rolled tubes to limit tube-to-tubesheet crevices, but earlier vessels, like those at Salem, are having this design improvement retrofitted in the field using the WEXTEx process. All other assembly of the vessels has been completed and only the field hydrostatic tests remain. These tests will be performed after tube expansion.

Following the tube expansion program, the tests listed below will be performed to assure continuing steam generator integrity:

1. Liquid penetrant test of divider-plate welds.

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The Energy People

Mr. A. Giambusso, Director

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2. A complete eddy current test of tubes (for Regulatory Guide 1.83).
3. Primary and secondary side field hydrostatic tests.

We will continue to monitor and audit the WEXTEx operations. We believe that this process will contribute to improved steam generator reliability with no adverse effects or safety implications.

Very truly yours,



R. L. Mittl
General Manager - Projects
Projects Department