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July 6, 1979

Director, Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Docket Nos.: STN 50-546  
STN 50-547

Construction Permit Nos.:  
CPFR-170  
CPFR-171

Marble Hill Nuclear Generating Station  
Units 1 & 2

Gentlemen:

This letter is an up-date to the PSI June 8, 1979 transmittal and a response to the June 20, 1979 telephone conversation and June 26, 1979 NPC transmittal.

The July 2 date for a final report cannot be met in that the Cherne Contracting Corporation has elected to requalify (see Reportable Incident No. 1 up-date below) the particular welders to a procedure that will extend the wall thickness capabilities. The procedure is currently in the review/approval cycle between PSI and Cherne. The July 2 date was established based on re-qualification, utilizing Cherne Welding Procedure 101B021 - 2.25. Procedure 101B021 - 2.25 is approved but does not contain the extended range or techniques Cherne wishes to accomplish at this time for a group of particular welders. The review/approval cycle is expected to be complete and the welders re-qualified by August 1, 1979.

Status

Reportable Incident No. 1

The June 8 transmittal should be corrected to indicate that fourteen (14) qualifications were accomplished by eleven (11) welders using Cherne Procedure 14.6.1.77.

The current status is as follows:

The original qualifications were accomplished by placing the penetrometer on the film side of the source. The procedure was correct; however, the interpretation was incorrect. For the eleven (11) welders originally qualified the status is as follows:

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Three (3) re-qualifications were accomplished by the bend test method (rather than by radiography) on their original test coupons and six (6) by the preparation and test of new coupons.

One (1) re-qualification could not be accomplished in that the original test coupon was not available, and the welder is no longer employed by Cherne. The production weld made by the individual was identified and cut out.

The remaining four (4) will be requalified using the bend test method; however, the test coupons will be made from welds made by Cherne Welding Procedure 101B021-2.25 in conjunction with revised procedure 13.3 Rev. 4 in order to extend their thickness qualifications to unlimited. This will be accomplished by August 1, 1979.

Reportable Incident No. 2

A review of Cherne Procedure Qualification Reports (PQR) Nos. ten (10), eleven (11) and thirteen (13) was conducted based on their applicability to Cherne Welding Procedures 101BR11-4.5 and 101B021-5.0. It was concluded the procedures were correctly qualified initially, and the concern expressed was incorrect and should not be construed to be a reportable deficiency under the 10CFR50.55(e) requirements.

In summary, this letter constitutes a status of Reportable Incident No. 1, and eliminates, based on the above explanation, Reportable Incident No. 2. A final report on Reportable Incident No. 1 will be forwarded to your office by August 1, 1979.

Sincerely,

James Coughlin  
Vice President-Nuclear

JC:jb

cc: Director of Inspection & Enforcement  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

E. R. Schweibinz, P.E.

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