



THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY

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Dalwyn R. Davidson
VICE PRESIDENT
SYSTEM ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

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October 31, 1979

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

RE: Perry Nuclear Power Plant
Interim Report on Splitting
of Rockbestos Cable Jacket

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter is an interim report as required by 10CFR50.55(e) on the deficiency concerning Rockbestos Company cable. This item was first discussed in a telephone conversation between W. J. Kacer and T. A. Boss of The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and Mr. Jack Hughes of the NRC Region III, Office of Inspection and Enforcement on October 3, 1979.

Description of Deficiency

Rockbestos Company was contracted by The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company to manufacture Class IE small power and control cable for Perry Nuclear Power Plant. During installation of this cable in non-safety related systems, it was discovered that the cable jacket was slit in a number of places. Further inspection revealed that 4 out of 17 reels of cable inspected contained slits in the outer hypalon jacket. Although this inspection only accounts for 1.4% of the total cable received, it is felt that the percentage of reels found to contain slits is significant. These slits bring about serious concern that the cable jacket will be able to fulfill its intended functions of containing and protecting the individual conductors, as well as, providing fire retardancy and moisture resistance. Since slits have been found in cable scheduled for safety as well as non-safety systems, it is felt that the cable could adversely affect the safe operation or shutdown of the nuclear power plant.

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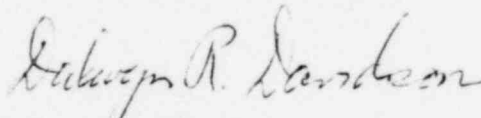
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Discussion of this problem with Rockbestos representatives revealed that the slits occurred during the manufacturing process. During extrusion an outer jacket is placed over the hypalon jacket to aid in the extrusion process. After extrusion is completed this outer jacket is removed by longitudinally cutting, then peeling off the extrusion jacket. It was pointed out that the cutting is apparently being made too deep in some instances and cutting the final hypalon jacket. Because of the nature of this deficiency, extensive evaluation or extensive repair will be required to establish the adequacy of the cable jacket to perform its intended function. At the present time CEI is working with Rockbestos Company to develop a test program to determine whether the cable can be utilized without adversely affecting its safe operation and intended function. Tests will include elongation and tension, cold bend, deformation, crushing, dielectric breakdown after glancing impact and dielectric breakdown after scoring. These and other tests will be conducted at the Rockbestos facilities in November and a final report will be submitted to the NRC by December 21, 1979.

Very truly yours,



Dalwyn R. Davidson
Vice President
System Engineering and Construction

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cc: Victor Stello, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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