

ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY



1605-L

U-0499

500 SOUTH 27TH STREET, DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62525

June 11, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Keppler:

Clinton Power Station Unit I  
Docket No. 50-461  
Construction Permit No. CPPR-137  
Potentially Reportable Deficiency 82-04

On May 7, 1982, Illinois Power verbally notified Mr. H.M. Wescott of a potentially reportable deficiency involving improperly tightened jam nuts on certain structural steel bolted connections in the containment. Illinois Power is conducting an investigation into this matter, and this letter serves as an interim report per 10 CFR 50.55(e)(3).

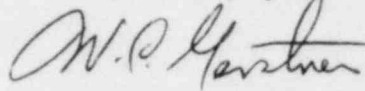
The investigation of this matter thus far has focused on the adequacy of design information provided to the constructor (Baldwin Associates) for installation of jam nuts in structural steel slip joint connections. This review has disclosed ambiguities relating to the design drawing notes covering the installation of jam nuts against high strength heavy hex nuts of the bolted connection. This ambiguity in the details led to misinterpretation of the tightness required of the jam nuts.

It is the designer's intent that high strength heavy hex nuts on structural steel slip joint connections be installed finger tight, allowing the connection to move, with a jam nut torqued snug tight against it, preventing the heavy hex nut from loosening. However, due to misinterpretation of the drawing, both the high strength nut and the jam nuts were installed finger tight. This situation was found to exist in structural steel connection inside the containment, and in areas exterior to the containment, such as containment gas control boundary, personnel walkway and block wall stiffening columns. Many of the affected connections were inspected and accepted for use.

The investigation of this matter continues into other potential areas of deficiency, such as piping/mechanical, electrical and HVAC hanger auxiliary support steel utilizing slip joint connections with jam nuts. We anticipate that we will require

approximately ninety (90) days to complete our investigation in these areas. At such time, we hope to be able to provide further details and conclusions regarding the reportability of this potential deficiency.

Very truly yours,



W.C. Gerstner  
Executive Vice President

cc: H.H. Livermore, NRC Resident Inspector  
Director, Office of I&E, Washington, DC  
Director of Quality Assurance  
Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety