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March 21, 1983

00-354

Mr. Ronald C. Haynes, Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Haynes:

LIMITORQUE VALVE OPERATORS
SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION DEFICIENCY
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

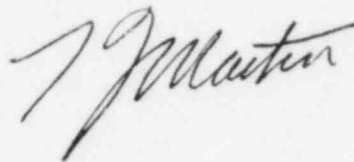
On June 19, 1981, a verbal report was made to Region I, Office of Inspection and Enforcement representative, Mr. R. Gallo, advising of a significant deficiency concerning Limitorque valve operators. Written reports were submitted to your office on July 17, 1981, November 19, 1981 and October 21, 1982. The following information is provided to update the above reports in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.55(e).

1. As described in our last letter, Bechtel Power Corporation, our Architect/Engineer and Constructor, issued procedure SWP/P-E-18, entitled "Termination Installation". Appendix A of this procedure establishes the criteria for jobsite inspection of Limitorque Operators for the deficiencies identified in our previous reports, i.e., the use of fiber shims, poor wiring practices and the use of unqualified electrical components. All deficiencies will be reworked in accordance with this procedure.

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2. The scope of our investigation and analysis was expanded to include the motor-to-shaft key problem as identified in NRC IE Information Notice No. 81-08, "Repetitive Failure of Limitorque Operators SMB-4 Motor-To-Shaft-Key". The suspect keys are being replaced with 4140 steel keys. This activity is being controlled and documented on nonconformance reports.
3. Each of the deficiencies listed in Paragraph 1, above, and the steel key deficiency can be postulated as possible causes for operator failure. Since such failure by safety-related "active" valves could compromise safe shutdown of the plant, we consider the manufacturing deficiencies in the Limitorque Operators to be a reportable deficiency in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

Very truly yours,



cc: Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Construction - Inspection
Washington, D. C.

NRC Resident Inspector - Hope Creek
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