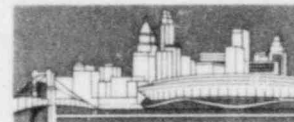


THE CINCINNATI GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY



CINCINNATI, OHIO 45201

March 28, 1983
LOZ-83-0012

E. A. BORGMANN
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Docket No. 50-358

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Attention: Mr. J.G. Keppler
Regional Administrator

Gentlemen:

RE: WM. H. ZIMMER NUCLEAR POWER STATION - UNIT 1
10CFR50.55(e) - ITEM E-42 - FAILURE OF BROWN
BOVERI (ITE) SOLID STATE TRIP DEVICES
W.O. 57300, JOB E-5590, FILE 956C, E-42

This letter constitutes an interim report concerning the subject condition initially reported to the NRC on March 7, 1983 as a potentially reportable deficiency under the requirements of 10CFR50.55(e).

Brown Boveri (formerly ITE Imperial) 480 volt circuit breakers are used in the essential 480 volt sub-stations at Zimmer. These breakers are supplied with solid state trip units which are used as power and overload sensors to trip the breakers. A capacitor in the power supply circuit has been subject to failure by long term degradation. This damage is caused by halogenated compounds (cleaning solvents) attacking the aluminum in the capacitor as explained in the Brown Boveri letter to Mr. V. Stello, Jr., dated December 10, 1982.

During the degradation period nuisance trips can occur which would cause the loss of an essential function. The ultimate failure mode of the capacitor is an open circuit. At this point the trip unit will not respond to overcurrent conditions, thus failing to trip the breaker.

The manufacturer has determined that this deficiency is limited to trip units manufactured prior to August 17, 1976. These units are identified by serial numbers below 28,300. A

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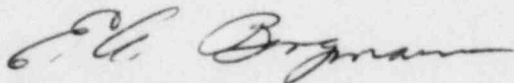
review of the circuit breakers at this facility identified fifty-seven (57) of the subject units.

The corrective action for this deficiency is to replace the capacitor or replace the entire trip unit. However, due to the NRC November 12, 1982 "Order to Show Cause and Order Immediately Suspending Construction", this work cannot be accomplished. A Construction Work Authorization Request (CWAR) will be prepared to obtain approval to perform the proposed corrective actions. Completion of the required corrective actions is contingent upon the NRC's approval of the CWAR. A follow-up report will be submitted by June 1, 1983.

We trust the above will be found acceptable as an interim report under 10CFR50.55(e).

Very truly yours,

THE CINCINNATI GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

By 
E.A. BORGMANN
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

RNT/WPC/bcf

cc: NRC Office of Inspection & Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20555
NRC Senior Resident Inspector
Attn: W.F. Christianson
NRC Zimmer Project Inspector
Region III