ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY

U-10077
1605-L

CLINTON POWER STATION, P.O. BOX 678, CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727

August 16, 1983

Docket No. 50-461

Mr. James G. Keppler
Regional Administrator
Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Subject: Potential Deficiency 55-83-08
10CFR50.55(e)
Damage to Guard Pipe
Bellows Assemblies

Dear Mr. Keppler:

On June 27, 1983, Illinois Power notified Mr. F. Jablonski, NRC Region III (ref: IP Memorandum Y-17131, 1605-L, dated June 29, 1983) of a potentially reportable deficiency per 10CFR50.55(e) concerning construction damage to the guard pipe bellows assemblies. Our investigation of this matter continues, and this letter represents an interim report per 10CFR50.55(e).

Statement of Potentially Reportable Deficiency

Ten (10) guard pipe bellows assemblies used at Clinton Power Station (CPS) were damaged during installation and construction activities. This damage consists of small dents, nicks, scratches, and arc strikes, with one (1) assembly exhibiting a small hole in one (1) of the two (2) bellow plys. An evaluation of this issue is being performed to determine the consequences of this damage and actions necessary to determine acceptability of the bellows.

Background/Investigation Results/Corrective Action

During installation of eleven (11) guard pipes and associated bellows assemblies, eleven (11) nonconformance reports (NCR's) were written to document cases of damage to ten (10) bellows assemblies. These bellows assemblies, anchored to the drywell wall and welded to the guard pipe, act as a seal isolating the drywell environment while allowing free axial thermal and seismic movement of the guard pipe. The bellows assemblies were fabricated, tested, and certified in an undamaged condition in accordance with the ASME Code, Section III, Subsection NE (Class MC).

An evaluation of this problem is being performed by Illinois Power and Sargent & Lundy to determine the remedial actions necessary to establish the acceptability of the damaged bellows. Several alternative methods are being considered, which include repair, testing, or replacement of the bellows assemblies.

To prevent further damage from adjacent construction activities, the installed bellows assemblies have been covered with sheet metal protective coverings.

Safety Implications/Significance

The consequences of the damage to the installed bellows is not known at this time. Further evaluation of the issue is necessary to determine the significance of the damage and the need for repair or replacement of the assemblies. It is expected that remedial action will not be necessary on most of the minor dented and scratched bellows.

The evaluation of this issue will require an extended period of time (approximately nine (9) months) to complete. Illinois Power intends to provide an updated status on this issue in approximately one hundred twenty (120) days to keep you informed of our progress. We trust that this interim report provides you sufficient background information to perform a general assessment of this potentially reportable deficiency, and adequately describes our overall approach to resolve the problem.

Sincerely yours,

D. P. Hall
Vice President

RDW/jf

cc: Manager-Quality Assurance
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INPO Records Center