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ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY

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

January 10, 1984

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 10CFR50.55(e) Deficiency 55-83-11
Laminations in 3/8" Steel Plates

Dear Mr. Keppler:

On December 6, 1983, Illinois Power notified Mr. F. Jablonski, NRC Region III (Ref: IP Memorandum Y-18894, dated December 6, 1983) of a potentially reportable deficiency per 10CFR50.55(e) concerning laminations found in 3/8" thick steel plates supplied to Clinton Power Station (CPS) for use in electrical hanger applications. Our investigation of this issue continues, and this letter represents an interim report in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e)(3).

Statement of Potentially Reportable Deficiency/Background

During lighting fixture installation in a non-seismic area of CPS, a craftsman discovered a 3/8" x 8" x 8" steel plate with a pronounced lamination. Examination of other uninstalled plates of the same heat number uncovered additional examples of visible laminations. Review of material requisitions indicates that some of the materials were issued for use in seismic areas of CPS. An evaluation of this issue is being performed to determine the extent of this problem, locations of potentially defective steel plates, and the significance of the issue on the operational safety of CPS.

Investigation Results/Corrective Action

Illinois Power has prepared and implemented an investigation plan to determine the extent and location of the suspect plate material. Investigations completed to date have identified the following information:

1. One thousand (1,000) 3/8" x 8" x 8" plates and five hundred (500) 3/8" x 12" x 12" plates of heat No. 486K2790 have been received at CPS. Examination of heat number computer logs maintained at CPS showed that no other materials with this heat number have been received at CPS.

2. The 500 12" plates were received on August 17, 1981, as documented on Receiving Inspection Report S-14654. The 1,000 8" plates were received on October 12, 1981, as documented on Receiving Inspection Report S-15056.

3. The material was purchased by Baldwin Associates (CPS Constructor) from Interstate Steel Supply (Philadelphia, PA) by Purchase Orders C-32391 (12" plate) and C-33251 (8" plate). The material was purchased as safety-related to the requirements of ASTM A-36, for use in electrical hanger applications. Certified material test reports were received with the shipments, and showed Bethlehem Steel Corporation as the material manufacturer.

4. Upon identification of this issue, Nonconformance Report (NCR) 12149 was written. Unissued plates of the suspect heat number are being purged from CPS and placed on hold. An inspection of uninstalled plates found to date, consisting of 261 - 8" plates and 347 - 12" plates, was performed. A total of 11 - 8" and 6 - 12" uninstalled plates has been found with visible laminations at this time.

Illinois Power's investigation of this issue continues. The following actions are being taken to further determine the locations of potentially defective plates at CPS:

1. A review of design drawings is being performed to determine electrical hanger details that use the specific sized materials.

2. A review of electrical hanger installation travelers issued since the receipt of the suspect material and which specify the affected details will be performed. This review will focus on the heat number of plate material used in the hanger.

3. A visual inspection of hangers identified as using the suspect material will be performed to identify visible laminations.

4. A test plan is being developed to determine if non-visible laminations exist in any of the uninstalled plates, and to determine the affects of laminations (visible or not) on the strength of the plate.

Safety Evaluation/Significance

Investigation of this issue is proceeding at this time to determine the extent and end uses of the potentially defective plate material. Until further inspection data has been obtained and evaluated, a definitive statement as to the affects of the material defects on the safe operation of Clinton Power Station cannot be made. It is expected that approximately ninety (90) days will be necessary to further evaluate this issue and to provide a final report on the matter.

We trust that this interim report provides sufficient background information to perform a general assessment of this potentially reportable deficiency, and adequately describes our overall approach to resolve this issue.

Sincerely yours,

D. P. Hall
Vice President

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cc: NRC Resident Office
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Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety
INPO Records Center