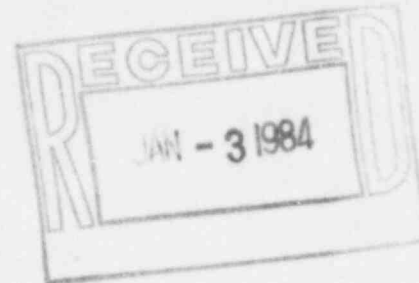




KANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

GLENN L. KOESTER
VICE PRESIDENT - NUCLEAR

December 30, 1983



Mr. J. E. Gagliardo, Acting Chief
Reactors Projects Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

KMLNRC 83-169

Re: Docket No. STN 50-482

- Ref: 1) Interim Report KMLNRC 83-021 dated 3/3/83
from GLKoester, KG&E, to WCSeidle, NRC
2) Interim Report KMLNRC 83-076 dated 6/20/83
from GLKoester, KG&E, to WCSeidle, NRC
3) Interim Report KMLNRC 83-116 dated 9/9/83
from GLKoester, KG&E, to WCSeidle, NRC

Subj: Interim 10CFR50.55(e) Report - Insufficient Torque
on Structural Steel Bolted Connections

Dear Mr. Gagliardo:

This letter provides an interim report and expands the scope of a 10CFR50.55(e) matter concerning structural steel bolted connections. This item was initially reported by Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) on February 4, 1983, and supplemental information was provided in References 1), 2) and 3).

The original concern identified in References 1) and 2) was that there were no procedures which required the crafts to notify Quality Control prior to removal of any structural steel items which had been previously Quality accepted. Therefore, some structural steel bolted connections were inadequately tightened as a result of rework accomplished after Quality acceptance of the connection. Corrective Action Report (CAR) 1-C-0026 was subsequently issued to provide appropriate documentation of the corrective actions being taken. Reference 2) provided a description of the corrective actions identified in the CAR. The actions associated with CAR 1-C-0026 have been completed, the CAR has been closed by the Constructor, and the results are now under review by KG&E.

The scope of this 10CFR50.55(e) has recently been expanded to include additional concerns with bolted connections. The primary concern at this point is the lack of procedural controls for connections made using "turn-of-the-nut" rather than Load Indicating Washers. A Nonconformance Report has been initiated to document those connections made using "turn-of-the-nut" without adequate procedures and the integrity of these connections will be evaluated. The appropriate procedures have been revised to provide appropriate controls for use of "turn-of-the-nut."

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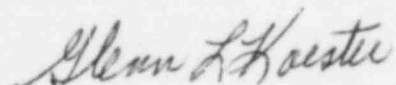
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December 30, 1983

When the lack of procedural controls for "turn-of-the-nut" was initially identified, a question was also raised about FSAR Section 17.1.2, paragraph m, in which a Region IV inspector interpreted the paragraph to mean that all high strength bolted connections throughout the plant were to be made using Load Indicating Washers. This paragraph was introduced to expand the scope of ANSI N45.2.5 (1974) with regard to the installation of high strength bolts for structural steel connections to allow the use of Load Indicating Washers and does not commit the SNUPPS projects to the use of Load Indicating Washers for all bolted connections.

Other issues related to bolted connections have also been raised and are under investigation at this time. These primarily deal with procurement, installation, and quality inspection procedures for load indicating washers. The status of this 10CFR50.55(e) will be carried on the monthly status updates as File 53564-K76 and the final report or any significant new information will be submitted under separate correspondence. In the interim, please direct any questions concerning this subject to me or Mr. Otto Maynard of my staff.

Very truly yours,



GLK:cks

cc: WSchum