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April 29, 1974



Mr. D. J. Skovholt
Assistant Director for
Operating Reactors
Directorate of Licensing
Office of Regulation
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

Subject: Dresden Station Unit 3 Inspection of Fuel
Assembly Lower Tie Plates - AEC Dkt 50-249

- References:
- (1) General Electric Report on Evaluation of Center Line Shrinkage Cracks in Bosses of Fuel Bundle Lower Tie Plates, Submitted in General Electric's letter to D. F. Knuth from J. D. Hinds dated August 29, 1973.
 - (2) Letter to D. L. Ziemann from J. S. Abel dated November 5, 1973. Subject: Dresden Station Unit 3 Potential Hairline Cracks in Fuel Assembly Lower Tie Plates.
 - (3) Letter from D. J. Skovholt to J. S. Abel dated February 15, 1974

Dear Mr. Skovholt:

In response to Reference 3, an inspection of the lower tie plates on 16 of the Dresden Unit 3 Reload 1 fuel assemblies was conducted on April 11 and 12, 1974. The results of this inspection are submitted for your information.

A visual examination was made using a borescope, with the optics as near as possible to the lower tie plates. Prior to each inspection, the lower tie plates were brushed to remove any crud deposited during operation. This provided a good, clear view of the lower tie plates. The inspection included a detailed examination of all the peripheral tie plate bosses for hairline cracking and a thorough survey of the remainder of the lower tie plate, covering an area approximately two inches below the tie plate channel ledge.

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Mr. D. J. Skovholt

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In general, the tie plates were in excellent condition with no evidence of any cracking. The inspection procedure and results are on file at Dresden Station and available for your review.

The lower tie plates on the following bundles were inspected:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1) GEB 054 | 9) GEB 086 |
| 2) GEB 056 | 10) GEB 089 |
| 3) GEB 058 | 11) GEB 091 |
| 4) GEB 063 | 12) GEB 092 |
| 5) GEB 068 | 13) GEB 096 |
| 6) GEB 074 | 14) GEB 099 |
| 7) GEB 077 | 15) GEB 100 |
| 8) GEB 079 | 16) GEB 103 |

As indicated in References 1, 2 and 3, possible cracking in the lower tie plates has been analyzed and is of no safety consequence. This is a more than adequate basis for considering the 27 suspect fuel assemblies as normal assemblies requiring no further special action.

One signed original and 39 copies of this report are submitted for your information.

Very truly yours,



J. S. Abel

Nuclear Licensing Administrator
Boiling Water Reactors