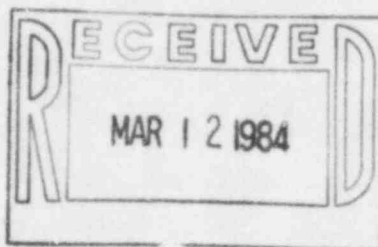




Public Service Company of Colorado

16805 WCR 19 1/2, Platteville, Colorado 80651

50-267



March 6, 1984
Fort St. Vrain
Unit #1
P-84076

Mr. John T. Collins
Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

SUBJECT: Segment 3 Fuel Element
Inspection Program

REFERENCE: P-84053, Warembourg
to Collins, 2-15-84

Dear Mr. Collins:

In the above referenced correspondence we set forth a fuel element inspection program which included taking photographs of all six (6) sides of the remaining Segment 3 fuel elements. As I reported to your Mr. Dick Ireland via telephone on March 5, 1984, we have completed that program, but based on the first film that we recently received, the photographs indicate an underexposed condition such that the photographs are not very good. We did have time to correct the exposure time for the last refueling region (#33), but all other photographs taken in conjunction with Regions 18, 3, and 29, were taken at the same camera settings. Although we do not have all the film back we have no reason to believe that the film for any of these three regions will be any better than what we have seen thus far. We utilized the same camera settings, lighting intensity, etc., that was recorded in our previous procedures, but we have experienced this under exposure situation.

Based on our previous commitments we are proceeding as follows:

1. We are making preparations to remove all of the Region 18 fuel elements from the fuel storage well to permit photographs of these elements. We will photograph all six (6) sides of each element and in addition will take a magnified (seven power) photograph of the "B" face of each of the elements in the Fuel Handling Machine.

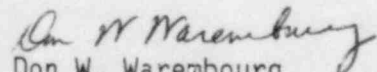
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2. We will have good photographs of Region 18 and Region 33 elements. Photographs of these regions will be available prior to return to power operation. As previously indicated these photographs will be evaluated by Public Service Company for any evidence of fuel element cracking. We will keep the Nuclear Regulatory Commission abreast of our evaluations.
3. The two Segment 3 elements whose operational history and location were similar to the cracked Segment 2 elements were examined with the Fuel Handling Machine cask camera. This examination was videotaped and is available on site for Nuclear Regulatory Commission review. We can see no evidence of cracking on these two elements.
4. The post irradiation program will proceed as previously stated in P-84053.
5. In addition to the previously outlined fuel inspection program we do plan to photograph the six (6) sides of each fuel element during our spent fuel shipping which is presently scheduled to take place between June, 1984, and October, 1984.

We believe that although we will have good photographs for 84 fuel elements in lieu of the 175 originally planned, the above outlined inspection program will be sufficient to identify any significant problem areas prior to power operation and most certainly results in a complete inspection program within six (6) months after return to power operation with consideration to the PIE program and fuel element shipping program.

Very truly yours,


Don W. Warembourg
Manager, Nuclear Production
Fort St. Vrain Nuclear
Generating Station

DWW/alk