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July 2, 1985

Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Dr. Murley:

POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DEFICIENCY
TOBAR PRESSURE TRANSMITTERS
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

On April 11, 1985, a verbal report was made to Region I, Office of Inspection and Enforcement representative, Mr. J. Strosnider, advising of a potentially significant construction deficiency concerning pressure transmitters supplied by TOBAR, Inc. On May 20, 1985, an interim report was sent to your office. The following information is provided in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

During startup calibration, a Tobar transmitter exhibited output signal drift when subjected to warm and cool air currents directly on the amplifier assembly. This temperature effect discrepancy raised questions regarding the accuracy and stability characteristics of the Tobar model 32, series 2 differential, gauge and absolute pressure transmitters.

Our preliminary investigation subjected transmitters to sharp temperature increases with "heat guns" which caused drifts exceeding the manufacturer's tolerances. However, these results are inconclusive in that they are not indicative of actual operating conditions. Per the manufacturer's recommendation, we conducted controlled environmental tests in an attempt to duplicate the drift effect. Twelve transmitters were subjected to temperature cycles between 30°F and 130°F using a heat oven. The test results did not identify any transmitters, within the manufacturer's recommended six month calibration period, as exhibiting out of tolerance characteristics.

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The model 32 series 2 transmitter that appeared to exceed the manufacturer's drift tolerances two months following calibration was also subjected to a controlled temperature test with results indicating transmitter performance within the manufacturer's published tolerances.

Discussions with Tobar and Bechtel have served to clarify our setpoint methodology both for calculating allowable drift for in-plant temperature ranges and for determining appropriate calibration intervals by application.

Based on the above described investigation, we have determined that no deficiency exists with Tobar model 32, series 2 transmitters supplied to Hope Creek. Consequently, we withdraw this item as not reportable in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

Very truly yours,



C Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Construction Inspection
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