

Project 692

CEOG COMBUSTION ENGINEERING OWNERS GROUP

Arizona Public Service Co
Palo Verde 1, 2, 3
Baltimore Gas & Electric
Calvert Cliffs 1, 2

Consumers Power Co
Palisades
Florida Power & Light Co
St. Lucie 1, 2

Entergy Operations Inc.
ANO 2
WSES Unit 3

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co
Maine Yankee
Northeast Utilities Service Co
Millstone 2

Omaha Public Power District
Ft. Calhoun
Southern California Edison Co.
SONGS 2, 3

December 19, 1996
CEOG-96-531

Project 692

Mr. Ashok Thadani
Deputy Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation (Acting)
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: CEOG Inspections of Control Element Drive Mechanism and In-core Instrument Penetrations

Dear Mr. Thadani:

At our recent meeting in Rockville I noted that the CE Owners Group had been discussing the issue of PWSCC of Control Element Drive Mechanism/In-Core Instrument (CEDM/ICI) penetrations in the reactor vessel upper heads of CEOG member plants. I indicated that we were considering a new owner's group initiative intended to address the NRC's long-term safety concerns for these penetrations. I am pleased to report that the CEOG has approved a joint inspection activity that will significantly increase the industry's base of knowledge on this important issue and should help to resolve the safety concerns.

The CEOG has initiated a project involving vessel head penetration inspections to increase our knowledge of the PWSCC phenomenon applicable to all C-E designed reactors. An important objective of this project is to establish confidence in the CEOG's susceptibility model for PWSCC in these penetrations. The current scope of this project will evaluate data from two complete head penetration inspections from CEOG plants ranking high in susceptibility by the current model. Among other things, the model considers parameters such as head temperature, time of exposure, metallurgical properties of the alloy-600 material, and assumptions on residual stress.

Northeast Utilities has decided to inspect the Millstone Unit 2 nozzles during their current outage. A second full inspection is planned by another member utility to be announced later. These two inspections will provide data on about 10% of the total population of CEDM/ICI nozzles in the CE fleet. The inspection data is expected to become available in the first half of 1997, and an evaluation of results completed by the end of 1997. Our current expectation is that this evaluation and its underlying inspection data will serve to define the long-term safety considerations applicable to the head penetrations for all C-E designed reactors.

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If you have any questions concerning this issue, please do not hesitate to call me or Mr. Gordon Bischoff of the CEOG Project Office at (860) 285-5494.

Very truly yours,



Charles Frizzle, Chairman
C-E Owners Group
Executive Committee

cc: S. L. Magruder, NRC
B. Sheron, NRC
A. Marion, NEI
CE Owners Group
CEOG Executive Committee
CEOG Materials Working Group