



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 13 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: James P. Knight, Acting Director
Division of Engineering, NRR

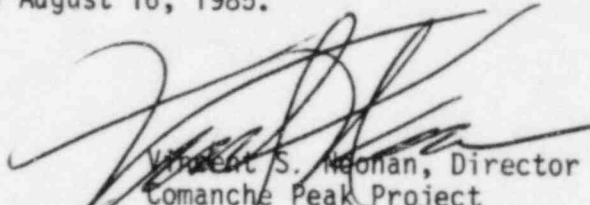
FROM: Vincent S. Noonan, Director
Comanche Peak Project
Division of Licensing, NRR

SUBJECT: VISUAL INSPECTION OF PAINTED SUPPORT WELDS

The applicant of Comanche Peak Plant will conduct an independent inspection program on component support welds (ASME-NF and ANS), which were already covered by paint.

The applicant proposed to Region IV not to remove paint for visual inspection. The basis of Texas Utility is that such inspections are not inspections of record and that "safety significant deficiencies" can be adequately identified without paint removal (see attached position paper). In addition, the applicant also feels that since the paint is epoxy based, removal will be difficult and may cause adverse effects to metal surface during the cleaning process.

I am requesting that the Material Engineering Branch of the Division of Engineering review the attached position paper, and discuss with IE, Region IV, and H. Livermore for developing a staff position regarding the acceptability of performing visual inspection of painted welds. Because of the urgency of the problem, we request that you provide your written evaluation by August 16, 1985.


Vincent S. Noonan, Director
Comanche Peak Project

Enclosures:

1. Memo, R. P. Denise to V. S. Noonan, "Visual Inspection of Painted Support Welds", July 5, 1985
2. "Position paper on Visual Inspection of Support Welds", prepared by Stone & Webster, June 17, 1985

* cc: J. Taylor, IE B. D. Liaw, NRR
R. Martin, RIV H. Livermore, RIII
R. Denise, RIV T. Westerman, RIV
L. Shao, RES C. Trammell, NRR

* cc w/o enclosures

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