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November 22, 1996  
NG-96-2514

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Mail Station P1-37  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Duane Arnold Energy Center  
Docket No: 50-331  
Op. License No: DPR-49  
Core Spray Sparger Inspection Results

Reference: IE Bulletin 80-13, Cracking in Core Spray Spargers, dated May 12, 1980

File: A-101a, E-21

The referenced bulletin requested licensees perform a visual inspection of the core spray (CS) spargers and the segment of piping between the inlet nozzle and the vessel shroud during each refueling outage. A written report of the examination results is required to be submitted to the NRC within 30 days of the completion of the examination. The purpose of this letter is to provide that report.

During refueling outage (RFO) 14, IES Utilities visually inspected the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) CS spargers and the segment of CS piping inside the reactor pressure vessel. These examinations were performed in accordance with the recommendations of the BWR Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) report, BWRVIP-18, "BWR Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines," which is currently being reviewed by the Staff.

An "enhanced" visual VT-1 (1/2 mil wire resolution) was performed on all CS piping welds. The welds were cleaned prior to examination. A "modified" VT-1 (1 mil wire resolution) was performed on the CS sparger welds. A VT-3 was performed on all sparger supports and sparger nozzles, with the exception of one nozzle previously identified as missing a tack weld. This nozzle was examined with a "modified" VT-1 to verify integrity of the remaining tack weld. No indications of cracks or structural failures were found.

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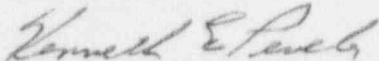
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In the future, the results of the CS sparger and piping examinations performed to meet the requirements of IE Bulletin 80-13 will be reported in conjunction with the inservice inspection summary report and the augmented examination report. These reports are submitted 90 days following startup from an RFO. As required by the bulletin, if any cracks are found, they will be reported to the NRC within 24 hours of identification.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Peveler

Manager, Regulatory Performance

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