

SSER

Task: Allegation A-270

Reference No.: 4-84-A-06-152

Characterization: It has been alleged that the concerns mentioned in a document called an "after-action report" written by EBASCO quality control (QC) civil engineer (dated December 15, 1975) on the common foundation base mat, Block No. 2 (placement sequence 3), had never been properly addressed or resolved.

Assessment of Allegation: Based on a QC civil engineer's observation of the placement of Block No. 2, he recorded a number of concerns regarding construction practices, including (1) construction placement procedure, (2) use of vibrators, and (3) the manner of concrete deposit. The document also noted that the efforts by the EBASCO placement inspector, the QC civil engineer, and the contractor's quality assurance (QA) personnel to alleviate the above conditions were ineffective. The above document did not indicate that the placement was unacceptable; in fact, the recommendations included in the document were directed toward future placement. Further, the "after-action report" was not a recognized QA document, according to the project procedures and, as such, did not require formal disposition. Based on conversations with LP&L and EBASCO personnel and the review of 20 of 28 base mat concrete placement packages, the NRC staff found this to be the only instance of the use of so-called "after-action report."

Block placements 6, 1, and 2 (the first three) were placed prior to the date of this "after-action report." Two site surveillance reports dated December 2, 1975 (Block No. 6) and December 11, 1975 (Block No. 2) and an EBASCO audit report dated December 2, 1975, contained observations similar to those noted in the document from the EBASCO quality control civil engineer. Based on these reports, LP&L issued Stop Work Order No. 1 on December 16, 1975. Prior to the Stop Work Order, LP&L personnel met with EBASCO and the concrete contractor, J. A. Jones, on December 5, 1975. Based on the NRC staff review, it appears that all the EBASCO quality control civil engineer concerns have been addressed, including the implementation of the recommendations, during the resolution of this Stop Work Order.

It was found that for the placement of Blocks 10B and 19, (after the Stop Work Order), which had significant placement problems due to external causes, the drilled core data did not exhibit any reduction in the concrete strength. In the first instance heavy rainfall during a placement created concrete washout near the edge forms and in the second instance errors in the concrete placement sequence and configuration caused concern about cold joints which were investigated and repaired. Further, all the surface deficiencies for the first three placements were repaired and disposed of by deficiency notices (DNs). The impact on the structural integrity of the base mat as a result of some of the placement practices observed by the QC civil engineer (e.g., excessive lift and inadequate vibration) was discussed in conjunction with Allegation A-139, and has been reviewed by an NRC consultant, who independently evaluated the impact of construction deficiencies on the base mat. The consultant found, and the staff agrees, that the structural integrity of the first three placements was not degraded.

The NRC staff concludes that the concerns in the "after-action report" have been addressed by resolution of audit and surveillance reports, and have neither safety significance nor generic implications.

The NRC staff discussed these findings with the alleged. The alleged did not want to discuss the specifics of the document but was satisfied that the NRC had adequately reviewed the item and assessed the impact on the quality of the base mat.

Potential Violations: None.

Actions Required: None.

References

1. "After Action Report," F. L. Phearson to W. C. Griggs, December 15, 1975.
2. Stop Work Order No. 1 (December 16, 1975).
3. Responses by LP&L to NRC staff questions of March 26, 1984 meeting in Bethesda.
4. Placement packages report, May 1976.
5. Mat 10B Placement Report, May 1976.
6. "Evaluation of Concrete in the Base Mat Waterford Unit No. 3" by R. Philleo, May 1984.
7. SSER on allegation A-139.

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