N369. Utility Embarks On Massive Slewing Job

Maine Yankee nuclear plant has made a decision to sleeve all 17,000 tubes in the plant's three steam generator.

Two-thirds of the way through eddy current inspection of the steam generators at the plant, the plus-point probe was still consistently detecting signs of circumferential cracking in 50-60 percent of the tubes inspected. Some of the crack indications were minor and some were growing while 10 tubes were more than 70 percent through the wall.

Maine Yankee completed further study of the technical, financial, safety, and licensing aspects of the sleeving job. They estimated that sleeving every tube in the plant's steam generator could take as much as six months to complete and cost $40 million.