

For Immediate Release:

Conco Services and EPRI Begin Collaboration to Advance Science of Condenser Leak Detection

Verona, Pennsylvania (January 23, 2015) Conco Services Corporation and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) have begun a research collaboration to identify and test promising condenser tube leak detection techniques. The project will involve five-phases, and is expected to be 11 months in duration. Conco and EPRI will be conducting this project with Conco's lab apparatus and mock heat exchanger at its Research and Development laboratory in Pennsylvania. Test results and methodologies will be analyzed and compiled into an EPRI technical update report anticipated to be completed in July, 2015.

Condenser tube leaks allow contaminants in circulating cooling water systems to mix with the highly purified water in the steam cycle phase of power generation. Even the smallest leaks, the ones that most often go undetected, can wreak havoc over time. This contamination process increases the rate of degradation in steam generators and can decrease the lifetime of the condensate demineralizer resin bed where they are used, costing power generation facilities millions of dollars in repairs and replacements over the lifetime of units.

Improved leak detection methods can improve maintenance efficiency and power plant reliability and save money for power generation plants. This project is meant to define and evaluate the processes to identify the sources of the smallest of condenser tube leaks.

Conco Services Corporation and EPRI have a long history of research collaboration. The unique experience of the two organizations has resulted in past innovations such as the *Condenser In-Leakage Guideline* (2000) and the *Condenser Application and Maintenance Guide* (2001), both of which are available at www.epri.com

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