

March 16, 2000

Mr. Ian C. Rickard, Director
Nuclear Licensing
ABB Combustion Engineering
Nuclear Power, Inc.
2000 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095-0500

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Rickard:

By your applications dated December 15, 1999, and January 20, 2000, and affidavit dated December 8, 1999, you submitted "Corrosion Behavior of OPTIN Cladding at Calvert Cliffs" meeting slides dated December 14, 1999, and requested that it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790. A nonproprietary version was submitted for placement in the NRC public document room.

The affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

1. The information sought to be withheld from public disclosure is owned and has been held in confidence by ABB. It consists of technical data and post-exposure evaluation results of OPTIN-clad fuel bundles.
2. The information consists of summary data or other similar data concerning a process, method or component, the application of which results in substantial competitive advantage to ABB.
3. The information is of a type customarily held in confidence by ABB and not customarily disclosed to the public.
4. The information is being transmitted to the Commission in confidence under the provisions of 10 CFR 2.790 with the understanding that it is to be received in confidence by the Commission.
5. The information, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is not available in public sources, and any disclosure to third parties has been made pursuant to regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements that provide for maintenance of the information in confidence.

6. Public disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to the competitive position of ABB because:
 - a. A similar product is manufactured and sold by major competitors of ABB.
 - b. Development of this information by ABB required hundreds of thousands of dollars and thousands of manhours of effort. A competitor would have to undergo similar expense in generating equivalent information.
 - c. The information consists of technical data and qualification information for ABB-supplied products, the possession of which provides a competitive economic advantage. The availability of such information to competitors would enable them to design their product to better compete with ABB, take marketing or other actions to improve their product's position or impair the position of ABB's product, and avoid developing similar technical analysis in support of their processes, methods or apparatus.
 - d. In pricing ABB's products and services, significant research, development, engineering, analytical, manufacturing, licensing, quality assurance and other costs and expenses must be included. The ability of ABB's competitors to utilize such information without similar expenditure of resources may enable them to sell at prices reflecting significantly lower costs.

We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

Therefore, the version of the submitted information marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review

this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-3473.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Alexander W. Dromerick, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-317 and 50-318

cc: See next page

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Unit Nos. 1 and 2

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