



**THE
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June 14, 2000

NRC VENDOR DOCKET #
99900231

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Okonite Bonded Jacket Cable Loss-Of-Coolant-Accident
Test Failures

Dear Mr. Collins:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 17, 2000.
Please accept the following as an interim response.

At this point in time, and as indicated in the February 2000 meetings, the Wyle Laboratories tests are based on environmental assumptions from the 1960s and 1970s which, we understand, do not reflect prevailing operating conditions at the utilities. The assumptions were overly and unrealistically severe. As a consequence, the test conditions and results bear no relationship to to real world conditions.

Okonite is exploring two alternative programs. One program would involve retesting on the basis of the operating history of the nuclear power plants. The alternative program would involve engineering analysis of the existing test data of the Franklin Institute and similar agencies, again in the light of actual operating conditions at the licensees.

Okonite envisions working closely with the Commission and industry in this process. Once either program is established, it will be carried out at Okonite's expense.

Based on the results obtained by Wyle Laboratories in the less severe tests it did on other manufacturers' cables, Okonite anticipates that upon completion of either program, Okonite's cables in question will be shown to be qualified for and to meet industry requirements.

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United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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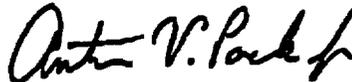
The June 22, 2000 meeting which the Commission has established with NEI will be an important early step in this process. Okonite has already advised the Commission that it will attend.

We will write you again within 30 days after the June 22, 2000 meeting. At that time we will outline the steps to be taken in the program we have selected. Once the program is established, we will implement it expeditiously.

We appreciate the Commission's cooperation in addressing this issue.

Very truly yours,

THE OKONITE COMPANY, INC.



Arthur V. Pack, Jr.
Vice President - Engineering