

April 11, 1988

Docket No. 50-318

Mr. J. A. Tiernan
Vice President-Nuclear Energy
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company
P. O. Box 1475
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

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Dear Mr. Tiernan:

SUBJECT: INTERIM APPROVAL OF ASME CODE RELIEF FROM HYDROSTATIC
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAIN STEAM SYSTEM (TAC 67626)

At 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, 1988 BG&E's staff verbally requested immediate relief from the requirements of Articles IWA-4400 and IWA-4600 of Section XI of the 1983 Edition of the ASME Code that a hydrostatic pressure test be performed on portions of Code Class 3 piping that is repaired or replaced. Previously, during the Unit 2 mini-outage, you had replaced check valves 2-MS-103 and 2-MS-106. These valves are in the steam supply lines to the turbines of the Nos. 21 and 22 auxiliary feedwater pumps and are isolated from the Nos. 21 and 22 steam generators, respectively, by valves 2-CV-4070 and 2-CV-4071.

Earlier on March 26, 1988, you attempted to hydrostatically test the new pipe-to-valve welds upstream of check valves 2-MS-103 and 106, using valves 2-CV-4070 and 4071 as test pressure boundaries. However, as these valves leaked excessively in the upstream direction, they could not be used as test pressure boundaries. Consequently, immediate ASME Code relief, in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), was requested for these welds so that Unit 2 heatup, scheduled for March 27, 1988, would not be delayed. In lieu of the required hydrostatic test, you proposed to perform radiographic examinations of the full penetration welds followed by VT-2 visual examination for leakage after returning the system to service.

At 8:15 p.m. Mr. S. Varga, Director, Division of Reactor Projects, I/II, with the concurrence of C.Y. Cheng, Chief of Materials Engineering Branch, gave interim approval to this relief request; contingent upon your submittal of a written request by close of business on Monday, March 28, 1988, with which you complied, and with performance of radiographic examinations on the replacement welds, followed by VT-2 visual examination of the piping section for which relief was requested.

This letter shall serve as confirmation of our interim approval of your relief from the requirements of Section XI, Articles IWA-4400 and IWA-4600 of the 1983 Edition with Addenda through Summer 1983 of the ASME Code that the portion of main steam piping described, herein, be hydrostatically pressure tested.

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This interim approval for relief from the Section XI, Articles IWA-4400 and IWA-4600 ASME Code requirements shall expire either upon the issuance of a final approval or relief or upon determination that this ASME Code relief is not acceptable.

This letter confirms that the Commission has granted this interim relief, effective March 26, 1988, from the hydrostatic pressure test requirements for this portion of main steam piping pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i) and found that this interim relief was authorized by law and that it will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and was otherwise in the public interest, giving due consideration to the burden upon the licensee that could have resulted if the requirements had been imposed upon the facility.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Capra, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects, I/II

cc: See next page

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Mr. J. A. Tiernan
Baltimore Gas & Electric Company

Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant

cc:

Mr. John M. Gott, President
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Regional Administrator, Region I
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