

March 9, 2001

Mr. Gary J. Toman, Project Manager
Plant Supporting Engineering
Science and Technology Division
EPRI
1300 W.T. Harris Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28262

Dear Mr. Toman:

I am writing in response to your letter, dated October 30, 2000, in which you provide comments on the NRC staff's presentation to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), and other recent technical meetings about the environmental qualification (EQ) of electric cables.

First, I wish to thank you for your comments and for the interest that you have shown in our cable research program. We look forward to your continuing interaction as we explore resolution paths for GSI-168.

Clearly, you and the staff disagree on some of the information and we would welcome an opportunity to discuss these areas of disagreement in an effort to bring about a timely and definitive resolution to GSI-168.

With regard to the staff's concern about the single prototype test acceptability, this is an issue that has emerged as the staff has considered the test "failures" from our research. Clearly, single prototype testing has been used for many applications and will almost certainly be used for many future applications. However, the staff feels that the use of a single cable specimen for environmental qualifications warrants further discussion.

I suggest that we enter into a limited series of public meetings to fully discuss our respective views of the research results and cable qualification. I have asked my staff to begin preparation for these meetings.

Your continued interest in our research activities is appreciated.

Sincerely,

/RA/ approved by

Michael E. Mayfield, Director
Division of Engineering Technology
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc: Jim Lang, EPRI

Mr. Gary J. Toman, Project Manager
 Plant Supporting Engineering
 Science and Technology Division
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 1300 W.T. Harris Blvd.
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Michael E. Mayfield, Director
 Division of Engineering Technology
 Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc: Jim Lang, EPRI

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 TEMPLATE NO. RES-007

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DATE	03/04/01		03/05/01		03/08/01		03/09/01			

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ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

DATE: March 12, 2001

TO:	INITIALS	DATE
1. S. Aggarwal - initial/concur		
2. F. Cherny - initial/concur		
3. N. Chokshi - initial/concur		
4. J. Strosnider- initial/concur		
5. M. Mayfield - initial/sign/concur		
6. R. Lambert - Dispatch		
7.		

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	Coordination		Justify		Concurrence

LETTER TO: G. Toman, EPRI
 FROM: M. Mayfield

RE: Response to October 30, 2000 letter, implication of unacceptable qualification practices for cables.

FROM: R. Lambert	Room No. T-10-E-6 Phone No. x5686
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