

**Stephen A. Byrne**  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
803.345.4622



August 22, 2001  
RC-01-0151

Mr. Michael E. Mayfield, Director  
Division of Engineering Technology  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Attention: Ms. Deborah A. Jackson

Dear Mr. Mayfield:

Subject: VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION  
DOCKET NO. 50/395  
OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-12  
RES REQUEST FOR ACQUISITION OF A PORTION OF THE V. C.  
SUMMER SPOOL PIECE

Reference: Letter from Mr. Michael E. Mayfield, NRC, to Stephen A. Byrne, SCE&G,  
dated June 4, 2001

Your letter dated June 4, 2001, formally requested a portion of the spool piece removed from the VC Summer A Hot Leg for the purpose of continued research. It has been our desire and focus that the information, test results, and remaining VCS material be made available to support further assessment, inspection, repair, and research efforts on Primary Water Stress Corrosion Cracking. We have had discussions with the EPRI MRP Alloy 600 committee regarding the priorities of this material and are all in agreement that first priority should go to the inspection efforts. However, we also believe that there is sufficient material available to support your request as well as requests for use of the material in development of other industry sponsored crack initiation and growth studies.

Your letter indicated that you prefer a piece large enough to create 8 - 1" specimens. We believe that piece number 8 will fit your requirements. Piece number 8 is a 9" long and 6" wide full thickness weld section.

The entire weld area spool piece was decontaminated by bead blasting in Spartanburg, SC. However, all pieces contain some remaining level of activation or contamination. Radiation Levels on piece #8 are ~ 70 mr/hr at 0.5" and 11mr/hr at 12". Smearable activity is 4,700 DPM/100 square cm.

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Based on your letter, it is our understanding that you will be working with Argonne National Laboratory to perform further studies and obtain independent crack growth rate information. As you know one of the problems the industry and the NRC are facing regarding PWSCC is the limited data and the data scatter. The EPRI MRP Alloy 600 Assessment Committee has identified a task to evaluate and attempt to resolve differences in test methodology and data scatter. An Expert Panel is in the process of being formed to manage and implement this task. It is our understanding that Mr. William J. Shack of ANL is a member of this Expert Panel. In releasing this material for further study it is our desire that all further crack initiation and crack growth studies be conducted in cooperation with this Expert Panel. In addition, all data derived from the study should be provided to the Industry through the EPRI MRP. If the NRC has a concern with this approach, please contact Mr. Gary Moffatt.

Piece # 8 of the VC Summer A Hot Leg is hereby released to you. Please note that shipment and final disposal become your responsibility. Please contact Mr. Don Seeger or Mr. Gutti Rao of Westinghouse to discuss logistics and arrange for shipment.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gary Moffatt at (803) 345-4031.

Very truly yours,



Stephen A. Byrne

CJM/SAB/cm

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