May 1, 1998

EA 98-225

Mr. Charles H. Cruse
Vice President - Nuclear Energy
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BG&E)
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
1650 Calvert Cliffs Parkway
Lusby, MD 20657 - 4702

SUBJECT: NRC REGION 1 MAINTENANCE RULE TEAM INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-317/98-04 AND 50-318/98-04

Dear Mr. Cruse:

This report transmits the findings of the safety inspection conducted by NRC inspectors at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant from March 30, 1998 to April 3, 1998. In-office inspection review occurred from April 6 to April 16, 1998. The enclosed report presents the results of these inspections. At the conclusion of the inspection, these findings were discussed with you and members of your staff.

Based on the results of this inspection, three apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The licensee permitted a number of structures, systems, and components (SSCs) within the scope of the Maintenance Rule to remain under 10 CFR 50.65(a)(2) when preventative maintenance failed to assure that these SSCs remained capable of performing their intended function; the licensee failed to establish performance measures for the emergency diesel generator building heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system and was therefore unable to effectively demonstrate the system remained capable of performing its intended function; the licensee failed to include the safety related portion of the emergency lighting located outside the control room, which is required for safe shutdown of the plant, in the scope of the Maintenance Rule program. Collectively, the violations indicate a potential programmatic problem. We would like to discuss these findings in a predecisional enforcement conference with you. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

An open predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 28, 1998. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent

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violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, please be prepared to discuss your perspectives on whether these apparent violations individually or collectively constitute a programmatic problem, or more significantly, a breakdown. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violation(s), 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

James T. Wiggins, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-317; 50-318
License Nos.: DPR-53/DPR-69

Enclosure: NRC Maintenance Rule Team Inspection
Report Nos. 50-317/98-04 and 50-318/98-04

cc w/encl:
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