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From:
Robert Smith

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To:
Brian Sheron

***** YELLOW *****

For Signature of:

Routing:
Dyer
Borchardt
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Description:
Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval of the Bar-lock reinforcing bar splice

Assigned To:
DE

Contact:
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Special Instructions:

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February 23, 2006

Brian Sheron, Associate Director
for Engineered and Safety Systems
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Sheron:

We have exchanged correspondence (you to me, Oct. 27, '03) on the subject of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval of the Bar-lock reinforcing bar splice and the language used in the Federal Register to describe the reasons for approval; initially for Sequoia and more recently for the Watts Bar shield building domes.

Paragraph One of TVA Docket No. 50-390 Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Unit 1, Rhea County, Tennessee (start at line 17), "The Bar-lock coupler qualification tests detailed in Topical Report 24370-TR-C-001-A demonstrate that the Bar-lock coupler meets the ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) strength requirements and is, therefore, acceptable for use in nuclear safety related applications." To me, that implies that Bar-lock splice has been submitted to ACI-ASME Committee 359 for approval and been qualified as meeting the ASME B&PV Code, Section III, Div. 2. As yet the ASME-ACI Code Committee has not yet examined the essential variables of the system and there has been no proposal to consider this system under the Code, for the use of the Bar-lock in containments, also nuclear safety related structures.

As you say in your letter of October 27, 2003, "We have a shared interest" in clarification in this matter. The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has two active ACI-ASME Code Committee members in-house. In the interest of clarity, it would seem appropriate to ask one of them to edit future NRC action concerning splices of steel reinforcement to the Federal Register.

I would appreciate your help in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Smith

Cc: Chris Skmma, Secretary
Joint ACI-ASME Code Committee 359