

**From:** "Lee, Doug E." <DELee@babcock.com>  
**To:** "Joseph Petrosino" <JJPl@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** 2/1/2007 6:34:24 PM  
**Subject:** NRC Questions.doc

Joe:

Attached are our responses to your questions.

I am out of the office tomorrow, but will be back Monday. If follow-up is required, you can contact me on Monday.

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**CC:** "Huson, William S" <WSHuson@babcock.com>, "Neubrand, Paul R" <prneubrand@babcock.com>, "Herzig, Joe" <JHerzig@babcock.com>

No.	NRC Question	B&W Canada Response
1	Did B&W accept any crack indications within the butter layer for the J-groove weld of the Palisades head forging?	No, each completed layer of buttering is visually examined for cracks. Cracks are removed and elimination of cracks is confirmed by PT.
2	If cracking was accepted, can you explain how these crack indications affect UT of J-groove welds which serve as baseline examinations supporting NRC Order 03-009.	Cracking was not accepted.
3	If cracking was accepted by B&W in the butter layer, can you expound somewhat to discuss how the cracking meets Applicable Code requirements and/or why it is not structurally significant to avoid generating concerns. For example a PT examination of the butter layer may be required by ASME Section III, NB 5231(d) or NB 5245. If so, the acceptance criteria would be NB 5352, which considers any crack or linear indications unacceptable. Note that, these hot tears/cracking may be below the threshold for PT evaluation (e.g < 1/16 inch).	Cracking was not accepted. Furthermore, the final machined buttering surface, prior to welding of the J-weld, is examined by PT to Section III acceptance criteria.
4	If no crack indications were left in the final weld butter layer of the J-groove weld for the Palisades head forging after B&W corrected the welding process, the NRC wants to make sure that fact is clearly identified to avoid additional concerns in the future.	The current status of the buttering on the Palisades RRVCH is that the buttering surface is still in the as-welded condition. After completion of the machining of the buttering, the machined surface will be PT examined to Section III acceptance criteria. As a result no crack indications are left in the final weld butter layer.