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Douglas E. Dutton  
Vice President

*the southern electric system*

September 27, 1985

Mr. James P. Knight  
Acting Director, Division of Engineering  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Nuclear Construction Issues Group (NCIG)  
"Sampling Plan For Visual Reinspection of Welds"  
(NCIG-02)

Dear Mr. Knight:

Enclosed are twelve (12) copies of the subject Sampling Plan for Visual Reinspection of Welds for review and acceptance by the NRC. This document is a related effort to the Visual Weld Acceptance Criteria (VWAC), which recently underwent NRC staff review and technical acceptance as identified by your letter of June 26, 1985. This Sampling Plan is therefore limited to the same scope of structures and acceptance criteria as addressed by VWAC. The Sampling Plan is intended for use on the reinspection of welds.

NCIG's purpose in developing this Sampling Plan is to provide a uniform technically acceptable method of determining the acceptability of a given population of welds within the VWAC scope when sufficient reason is identified to question the quality of the original workmanship or inspection. Application of NCIG's Sampling Plan by a utility would have to be appropriate for the subject of concern. Certain situations may warrant project unique solutions or use of other acceptable sampling plans. However, in developing a Sampling Plan, NCIG Member utilities intend to utilize the results of our collective inputs and reviews and apply this Sampling Plan (when accepted by the NRC) if appropriate circumstances develop.

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Mr. James P. Knight  
September 27, 1985  
Page 2

Upon NRC's acceptance it is the intent of several NCIG Members (Attachment 1) to take the necessary actions to use the Sampling Plan, if the need should arise. These actions would consist of two parts. First, are the requirements for the use of the VWAC which include engineering approval, an FSAR revision and inspector training. Second, the utilities would file an amendment to their FSAR docket(s) to identify the Sampling Plan as an acceptable "option" or "alternative" when conditions warrant its use. Since the Sampling Plan has been completed only recently, the remaining members of NCIG are still reviewing their plans concerning utilization of the document. It is NCIG's experience from the acceptance of the VWAC that other non-NCIG utilities will very likely embrace the use of the Sampling Plan. This will promote standardization within the industry.

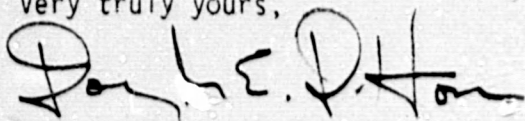
An NCIG Member commitment is not related to any specific situation but represents support for the NCIG effort and need for this type of document in the nuclear industry. Sampling Plans do not have a scheduled use and are not to be utilized unless a specific need arises.

NCIG is appreciative of the comments and suggestions received from the NRC staff during our recent meeting on May 29, 1985 and August 15, 1985. We believe these comments have been incorporated in Revision 0 (9-27-85) of the Sampling Plan submitted by this letter.

In view of the importance of the Sampling Plan and the NRC staff's familiarity with this document, we request completion of the NRC staff's review on an expeditious basis.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Ruble Thomas of Southern Company Services.

Very truly yours,



Douglas E. Dutton  
Nuclear Construction Issues Group

Enclosure

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cc: (List Attached)



ATTACHMENT 1

Nuclear Construction Issues Group Member utilities which presently intend to consider using the "Sampling Plan for Visual Reinspection of Welds", if events warrant a reinspection effort of welds.

<u>UTILITY</u>	<u>PLANT</u>	<u>DOCKET NUMBER</u>
Duke Power Company	Oconee Unit No. 1	50-269
	Oconee Unit No. 2	50-270
	Oconee Unit No. 3	50-287
	McGuire Unit No. 1	50-369
	McGuire Unit No. 2	50-370
	Catawba Unit No. 1	50-413
	Catawba Unit No. 2	50-414
Georgia Power Company	Vogtle Unit No. 1	50-424
	Vogtle Unit No. 2	50-425
	Hatch Unit No. 1	50-321
	Hatch Unit No. 2	50-366
Illinois Power Company	Clinton Unit No. 1	50-461
Philadelphia Electric Co.	Limerick Unit No. 1	50-352
	Limerick Unit No. 2	50-353
	Peach Bottom Unit No. 2	50-277
	Peach Bottom Unit No. 3	50-278
Tennessee Valley Authority	Browns Ferry Unit No. 1	50-259
	Browns Ferry Unit No. 2	50-260
	Browns Ferry Unit No. 3	50-289 296
	Watts Bar Unit No. 1	50-390
	Watts Bar Unit No. 2	50-391
Union Electric Company	Callaway Unit No. 1	50-483

cc: W/Attachment: (D. E. Dutton's letter of September 27, 1985 to J. P. Knight)

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