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Mr. James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Taylor:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF GENERIC SAFETY ISSUE 29, "BOLTING DEGRADATION OR FAILURE IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS"

During the 369th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, January 10-11, 1991, we reviewed the NRC staff's proposed resolution of Generic Safety Issue 29, "Bolting Degradation or Failure in Nuclear Power Plants." Our Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy also reviewed this matter during its meeting on January 9, 1991. During this review, we had the benefit of the documents referenced and of discussions with representatives of the NRC staff.

The proposed resolution deals with implementation of a plant-wide bolting integrity program with emphasis on safety systems. The staff's basis for the proposed resolution is described in NUREG-1339. This program has several parts. Some parts involve NRC actions, but most stem from an industry program that is summarized in Electric Power Research Institute report EPRI NP-5769, Volumes 1 and 2.

We agree with the staff that NUREG-1339 provides a satisfactory basis for the proposed resolution of this Generic Safety Issue. The NRC staff has not yet agreed on the method of implementation for this resolution. We withhold final comment on this issue until it is clear what path the NRC staff chooses to follow.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward
Chairman

References:

1. Memorandum dated December 4, 1990 from Warren Minners, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, to Raymond F. Fraley, Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subject: Proposed Resolution of GSI-29, "Bolting Degradation or Failure in Nuclear Power Plants."
2. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NUREG-1339, "Resolution of Generic Safety Issue 29: Bolting Degradation or Failure in Nuclear Power Plants," June 1990.
3. Electric Power Research Institute, EPRI NP-5769, Volumes 1 and 2, "Degradation and Failure of Bolting in Nuclear Power Plants," April 1988.