



MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Helping Build Mississippi

P. O. BOX 1640, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

July 28, 1978

Mr. John F. Stolz
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Stolz:

SUBJECT: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Units 1 and 2
Docket Numbers 50-416/50-417
File 0270/0277/1066
Moisture Controls for E7018
Arc-welding Electrodes
AECM-78/49

On April 4, 1978, (Reference 1) Arizona Public Service Company submitted for your review and comment a report (Reference 2) developed by Bechtel Power Corporation which demonstrated the adequacy of an alternative program to that of the American Welding Society's Structural Welding Code AWS D1.1, Paragraph 4.9.2 for the control of E7018 electrodes.

Paragraph 4.9.2 of AWS D1.1 imposes a limit of four hours out-of-oven time for E7018 electrodes. Bechtel's alternative method consists of allowing the electrodes to remain out of the holding oven for up to twelve hours without requiring redrying before use. This alternative method is incorporated in the welding controls of Bechtel Standard WFCM-1, Revision 2 as applicable to the Grand Gulf Project with the exception that the weld rod will be held in the holding oven for a period of eight hours after return from the field. This change shall be incorporated in later revision.

On April 24, 1978, your office notified Arizona Public Services Company (Reference 3) that the NRC staff had completed their review of Arizona Public Service Company's April 4, 1978 submittal and had concluded that Bechtel Standard WFCM-1, Revision 6 provides an acceptable alternative to the method of moisture control specified in Paragraph 4.9.2 of AWS D1.1.

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MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Mr. John F. Stolz
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Based on your concurrence with Arizona Public Service Company's moisture controls described in Bechtel Standard WPMC-1, Revision 6, this is to inform you that Mississippi Power & Light Company is currently adopting the controls of WPMC-1, Revision 6 at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station as stated above. Please provide us with your concurrence at your earliest possible convenience.

Yours truly,

L F Dale

for J. P. McGaughy, Jr.
Director of Power Production

- Reference 1: Letter, Edwin E. VanBrunt, Jr. (Arizona Public Service Company) to Edson G. Case (NRC), April 4, 1978.
- Reference 2: Report, "Qualification of an Alternative Electrode Control Program for AWSDL1.1," March 15, 1978, Arizona Public Service Company.
- Reference 3: Letter, John F. Stolz (NRC) to E. E. VanBrunt, Jr. (Arizona Public Service Company), April 24, 1978.

LFD/lis

cc: Mr. T. B. Conner, Jr.
Mr. Robert B. McGehee

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