

MAY 23 1977

The Honorable Lou Frey, Jr.  
United States House of  
Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Frey:

A copy of Matthew C. Jay's letter to President Carter dated February 5, 1977 has together with your note of April 25, 1977 been referred to me. You requested that we direct him to the proper people to consider his ideas regarding preventing pipe cracks in Boiling Water Reactors.

In his letter to President Carter, he indicated that he had been unable to interest anyone at the NRC or at the General Electric Company in his ideas. According to our records, however, he was given copies of reports on the pipe cracking problem by the NRC and by General Electric. After he had received these reports, and had developed his ideas on how to prevent the pipe cracks, he again contacted both Mr. Kehnemuyi of the NRC and Dr. Klepfer of the General Electric Company.

Based on our records, and on recent conversations with Mr. Kehnemuyi, he was invited to meet with representatives from the NRC on this subject, and a meeting was held with him on March 10, 1976. Unfortunately, at that time he did not choose to reveal any technical information regarding his proposed "solutions", therefore the NRC could not evaluate either the possible benefit or the practicality of his ideas, and referred him to the General Electric Company.

In addition, our records show that in his discussions with General Electric they did indicate an interest in his ideas, and in a letter to him on April 29, 1976, Dr. Klepfer offered him a consulting contract with them on this subject. In a telephone conversation with Dr. Klepfer on May 6, 1977 regarding this, we learned that Mr. Jay never responded to the G. E. offer.

The General Electric Company has expended a great deal of time and money developing alternative methods and materials that will prevent future problems with pipe cracks, but we feel sure that they would still be receptive to any new ideas that could provide suitable protection at less cost or simpler implementation. It should be pointed out, however, that if his ideas for a simple, inexpensive solution to pipe cracking are to be given serious consideration, he must provide detailed technical information, justification, or other demonstration

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that what he proposes will be practical and effective. I'm sure that you realize that although the people carrying on this work are very qualified through experience and training to evaluate his ideas, any communication of ideas of this nature must be conducted under conditions that will provide all parties with protection of their proprietary rights.

It is for these reasons that we recommend that if he still believes that he has some ideas on this subject that have yet to be considered and evaluated, he should contact the General Electric Company directly, and provide his technical information. Of course you realize that the NRC does not design or build nuclear power plants, nor stipulate specific methods that must be used to provide the required degree of safety.

In addition to the General Electric Company, the Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, California, also has development programs directed toward detecting and preventing cracks in piping. He may also wish to correspond with them on this matter.

Although the NRC does not actually fabricate or repair piping system, any technical suggestions he would care to make on this subject are more than welcome. You are probably aware that we have procedures to handle proprietary information that will protect the rights of individuals or companies, and guard against unwanted disclosure. If he wishes to proceed in this manner, he should direct his response to D. Eisenhut of the NRC staff referencing this letter.

Sincerely,

William J. Dircks  
Assistant Executive Director  
for Operations

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bcc: H. H. Klepfer  
General Electric Co.  
175 Curtner Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125

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