



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
OCT 10 1989

Mr. Kenneth H. Pritchard
11146 Beacon Way
Lusby, MD 20657

Dear Mr. Pritchard:

I am responding to your letter, dated August 11, 1989, to Senator Barbara Mikulski, which she sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for consideration. In this letter you express concern about the storage of radioactive waste at Calvert Cliffs, by itself, and in conjunction with the potential re-opening of the Cove Point Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal.

The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BG&E) has informed the NRC that BG&E intends, at some future date, to apply for a license to construct and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at the Calvert Cliffs site. This ISFSI would store spent fuel, discharged from the two reactors at Calvert Cliffs, in dry, radiation-shielded steel canisters that would then be held in reinforced concrete storage bunkers.

Currently, spent fuel generated by Calvert Cliffs is stored in the facility's spent fuel pool that is located onsite. BG&E estimates that the capability to off-load either reactor core at Calvert Cliffs Units 1 and 2 will be limited after April 1992 and that the spent fuel pool will be completely full in 1995. Because a Federal high-level waste storage depository is not yet in operation, the effect of this future spent fuel pool loading would be to restrict or prevent continued power generation at Calvert Cliffs. Consequently, BG&E is planning to request a license to construct and operate an ISFSI so that Calvert Cliffs' spent fuel can continue to be stored onsite.

Once an ISFSI licensing application is received from BG&E, the NRC staff will conduct an extensive evaluation of the BG&E proposal to ensure that it would adequately protect the health and safety of the public. In addition, the NRC will publish a notice in the Federal Register that the Commission proposes to issue an ISFSI license and inviting public comment on this proposed action. Should it thereafter be determined that the activity might create a significant hazard to the public, an opportunity for a public hearing will be provided. Through these processes, members of the public can directly express their concerns regarding the proposed ISFSI to the Commission.

With regard to the Cove Point LNG Terminal, the NRC has examined the possible hazards presented by LNG transportation to and storage at Cove Point. On June 13, 1978, the NRC staff completed and issued an extensive safety evaluation concerning potential hazards posed by operation of the Cove Point LNG Terminal. The NRC staff determined that Cove Point did not pose any significant risks to safe operations at Calvert Cliffs and that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by the resultant effects of any LNG accident on Calvert Cliffs.

To ensure that prudent actions are taken at Calvert Cliffs, in the event of an LNG accident, BG&E previously developed contingency plans to mitigate potential LNG accident-related effects. However, since the Cove Point facility has not operated for several years, the NRC will ensure that an LNG accident contingency plan remains in effect at Calvert Cliffs before Cove Point is re-opened.

I hope that this letter is responsive to your concerns. The NRC staff will continue to remain most willing to discuss the status of Calvert Cliffs and any concerns that you may have about this facility.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Thomas E. Murley

Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski

DISTRIBUTION

Docket file: 50-317 and 50-319	SECY (CRC-89-0794)
NRC PDR	JTaylor
Local PDR w/cy of incoming	FMiraglia
EDO#0004759	FGillespie
EDO r/f	DCrutchfield
TMurley/JSniezek	DMossburg, PMAS (EDO#0004759) w/cy of incoming
JPartlow	Beverly Clayton
PDI-1 r/f (w/cy of incoming)	SMcNeil w/cy of incoming
SVarga	RCapra
BABoger	JWiggins
OGC	PDI-1 GT file
GPA/CA	Russell, RI
	Bernero, NMSS

[GT0004759]

*See previous concurrence

PDI-1:PM*	PDI-1:PD	Tech Editor*	ADP	DRPRI/DIR*
SMcNeil:bh	RCapra	NBeeson	BBoger	WKane
10/04/89	10/5/89	10/04/89	10/5/89	10/03/89
DRP/DIR*	ADP:NRR	NRR/DONRR		
SVarga	JPartlow	TMurley		
10/03/89	10/5/89	10/6/89		

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AD/RI	JWiggins
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[GT0004759]

* See previous concurrence

PDI-1:PM <i>SM</i>	PDI-1:PD *	Tech Editor	ADRI *	DRPRI/DIR *
SMcNeil:bh	RCapra	<i>SM - incorporated</i>	BBoger	WKane
10/4 /89	10/3 /89	10/4 /89 comments received from Nita Beeson	10/3 /89	10/3 /89
DRP/DIR *	ADP:NRR	NRR/DONRR		
SVarga	JPartlow	TMurley		
10/3 /89	10/ /89	10/ /89		

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I hope that this letter has answered your concerns. The NRC staff will continue to remain most willing to discuss the status of Calvert Cliffs and any concerns that you may have about this facility.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski

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[GT0004759]

JI-1:PM
SMcNeil:bn
10/3/89

PDI-1:PD
RCapra
10/3/89

Tech Editor
10/ /89

AD
BBoyer
10/3/89

DRPRI/DIR
WKane
10/3/89 *Sam for per tel com*

DRR/DIR
SVarga
10/ /89

ADP:NRR
JPartlow
10/3/89

NRR/DONRR
TMurley
10/ /89



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ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 10/04/89 EDO CONTROL: 0004759
DOC DT: 09/15/89
FINAL REPLY:

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski

TO:

John Bradburne, CA

FOR SIGNATURE OF: ** GRN ** CRC NO: 89-1027

Murley

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM KENNETH PRITCHARD CONCERNING
PLAN FOR BG&E TO STORE RADIOACTIVE WASTE ABOVE
GROUND AT CALVERT CLIFFS

Russell, RI
Bernero, NMSS

DATE: 09/21/89

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NRR Murley

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:
REPLY DIRECT TO RICHARD PRITCHARD.
SEND cc TO SEN. MIKULSKI & MARK ENVELOPE
ATTN: SUSAN M. SMITH.

NRR RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 21, 1989
ACTION: **DRPR:VARGA**

NRR ROUTING: MURLEY/SNIEZEK
PARTLOW
MIRAGLIA
CRUTCHFIELD
GILLESPIE
MOSSBURG

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-89-1027 LOGGING DATE: Sep 20 89
ACTION OFFICE: EDO
AUTHOR: B. A. Mikulski
AFFILIATION: UNITED STATES SENATE
LETTER DATE: Sep 15 89 FILE CODE.
SUBJECT: Constituent concerns re storage of waste above
ground at Calvert Cliffs & the reopening of the LNG
plant.
ACTION: Direct Reply
DISTRIBUTION: RF
SPECIAL HANDLING: OCA to Ack.
NOTES:
DATE DUE: Oct 5 90
SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION:

Rec'd Off. EDO
Date 9-21-89
Time 9:30 AM

EDO---004759