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SHIELDS L. DALTROFF  
VICE PRESIDENT  
ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

August 28, 1980

Re: Docket No. 50-277

IE Bulletin 79-26

Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director  
Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. Grier:

This letter is in response to item 3 of IE Bulletin 79-26, forwarded to us on November 20, 1979, concerning boron loss from BWR control blades.

Action to be Taken by Licensee

3. At the next cold shutdown or refueling outage, conduct shutdown margin tests to verify that:
  - a. full withdrawal of any control blade from the cold xenon free core will not result in criticality; and
  - b. compliance with the shutdown margin requirement in a manner that accommodates the boron loss phenomenon (i.e., by including a plant specific increment in the shutdown margin that takes the potential loss of boron from control blades identified from evaluation of item 1 into consideration).

Submit a written report on item 3 within 30 days following plant startup following the outage.

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Response

Peach Bottom Unit 2 completed its fourth refueling in August, 1980. A startup program was conducted following this refueling which included both control blade subcriticality testing and shutdown margin testing.

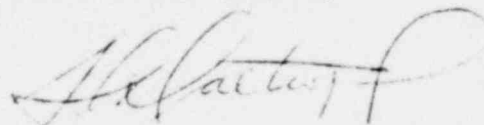
The control blade subcriticality testing was conducted in accordance with an approved procedure (Surveillance Test 10.8). During this testing, each control blade was fully withdrawn and the reactor was demonstrated to remain subcritical.

The shutdown margin testing was conducted in accordance with Surveillance Test 3.8.2. Shutdown margin was demonstrated to be 1.9%  $\Delta K/K$ , compared to the Technical Specification requirement of 0.38%  $\Delta K/K$ . Since all control blades expected to exceed 34% B10 depletion during cycle 5 were replaced during the outage with fresh control blades, it was not necessary to include an additional shutdown margin increment for potential boron loss.

Since our response to this item 3 for Peach Bottom Unit 3 was provided in our letter of December 17, 1979, this completes the required responses to items 1, 2, and 3 of IE Bulletin 79-26.

If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection  
Washington, DC 20555