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April 29, 1982

Docket No. 50-277
IE Bulletin 80-13

Mr. R. C. Haynes, Director
Region I
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. Haynes:

This letter is in response to IE Bulletin 80-13 forwarded to us on May 12, 1980 concerning cracking in core spray spargers. The "Actions to be Taken by Licensees" and our responses are treated sequentially below.

Actions to be Taken by Licensees

1. At the next scheduled and each following refueling outage until further notice, perform a visual inspection of the Core Spray Spargers and the segment of piping between the inlet nozzle and the vessel shroud. Remote underwater TV examinations are acceptable if adequate resolution can be demonstrated. The viewing in situ of 0.001 in. diameter fine wires is considered as an acceptable means of demonstrating suitable resolution of the TV examinations. Such techniques as the use of oblique lighting, and the ability to light from each side independently are considered useful in enhancing the image of cracks to facilitate detection.

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Response

A visual inspection of the core spray spargers and the segment of piping between the inlet nozzle and vessel shroud has been completed on Peach Bottom Unit Number 2. The inspection was performed in accordance with Peach Bottom Procedure ST/ISI 10:1S3 paragraph S37.3 by qualified examiners as part of the ISI program. An underwater television with the resolution described above was used to perform this inspection. The results of this inspection have been reviewed by General Electric Company personnel and by Philadelphia Electric Company Operation and Safety Review Committee (O&SR). A 160 degree indication was found in the B core spray to header box weld on the '0' degree side of the junction box.

2. In the event cracks are identified during examination of the core spray sparger system, the location and extent of the indications shall be recorded and reported to the NRC. Supplementary examinations using volumetric methods may be performed to aid in characterizing the extent of cracking in non visible locations and evaluation shall be submitted to NRR for review and approval prior to return to operation.

Response

Supplementary examinations were completed using a hand held camera technique, etc. These examinations determine the crack to be through wall and less than .032 inches at the widest point and extending 160 degrees (6.3 inches in length). A safety evaluation which addresses the relative merits of operating with the crack as well as with a mechanical clamp is presently being prepared. After review and approval by the O&SR, this evaluation will be discussed with NRR. Present plans are directed towards the installation of a clamp which will assure the positioning of the sparger arm.

Sincerely,

J. W. Gallagher