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BALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

GAS AND ELECTRIC BUILDING
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203

ARTHUR E. LUNOVALL, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
SUPPLY

November 17, 1978

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

Subject: Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
Units Nos. 1 & 2, Dockets Nos. 50-317 & 50-318
IE Bulletin No. 78-12

Reference: NRC letter dated 9/29/78 from B. H. Grier to
A. E. Lundvall, Jr., same subject

Dear Mr. Grier:

The referenced letter forwarded IE Bulletin No. 78-12, which described a potential problem with atypical weld material in reactor pressure vessel welds and asked that we provide certain information to conclude that the problem does not exist in our reactor pressure vessels.

After receipt of Bulletin No. 78-12, we consulted with our vessel manufacturer/supplier, Combustion Engineering, Inc. (CE), to determine the scope and feasibility of the task of providing the information requested by the Bulletin. As a result of these consultations, the following determinations have been made:

1. Based on the information available, CE's Chattanooga shops have not used any of the suspect weld wire heat in the fabrication of our reactor vessels;
2. the requested information can best be addressed on a generic basis;
3. if we are required to supply plant specific data as the Bulletin suggests, CE will require about 12 months to provide the data to us, and we will require adequate review time in addition to the 12 months. The cost of this effort has not yet been estimated, but it is expected to be considerably greater than if CE is allowed to address the problem generically; and
4. if the generic response approach is adopted, it is believed that it will fully respond to the NRC's concerns and will result in a substantial reduction in the potential cost to Baltimore Gas and Electric.

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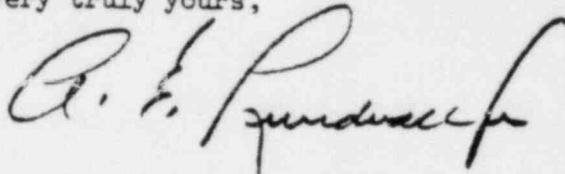
In a letter dated 11/3/78 from Mr. A. E. Scherer to Mr. H. D. Thornburg, CE described a proposed generic approach to the atypical weld material issue. That approach consisted of the following steps:

1. Confirm that the particular heat/lot of weld wire identified in Bulletin 78-12 has not been used in the manufacture of pressure vessels provided by Combustion Engineering.
2. Provide the NRC with a description of CE's quality control procedures regarding the procurement, testing, and use of weld wire and flux.
3. As part of regularly scheduled audits at CE's Chattanooga manufacturing facility, under the Large Component Vendor Inspection Program, the NRC can obtain further assurance that quality control procedures are indeed effective and that tests are fully documented.

We believe this to be a reasonable, logical, and relatively rapid approach to providing a response to the potential problem.

Based on the above discussion, we request that NRC modify Bulletin No. 78-12 to adopt the suggested generic approach as outlined in CE's letter of 11/3/78 and that we not be required to submit any specific information pending the NRC's acceptance of the CE approach.

Very truly yours,



cc - Mr. Harold D. Thornburg
Mr. P. W. Kruse
Mr. A. E. Scherer
Mr. E. L. Conner, Jr.
J. A. Biddison, Esquire
G. F. Trowbridge, Esquire