



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 14, 1991

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senator
961 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Senator Bentsen:

I am responding to your letter to Mr. Dennis Rothbun, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), dated December 11, 1990, requesting a response from the NRC to the issues raised by your constituent, Ms. Betty Brink, in her November 20, 1990 letter to you on behalf of the Citizens for Fair Utility Regulation (CFUR). Ms. Brink expresses CFUR's concern about Borg-Warner/International Pump Inc. check valves installed at the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), Unit 1 and references CFUR's November 18, 1990 petition to the NRC pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations.

As pointed out by Ms. Brink, there have been 10 reactor trips and 4 Notifications of Unusual Events at Comanche Peak Unit 1 since the license was issued on February 8, 1990. All were handled properly by the licensee, and none of the events represented a threat to the health and safety of the public. None of the 10 reactor trips or 4 unusual events were caused by failure of Borg-Warner check valves. At the time that one of the reactor trips occurred, the plant was known to be experiencing a small amount of leakage through a Borg-Warner check valve, which separates the auxiliary feedwater system from the main feedwater system. The reactor trip itself, however, was caused by an unrelated flow control valve closure. The minor leakage was being monitored and does not affect the safety function of the valves. However, it does cause the operators to monitor for elevated temperatures at low power levels during plant startups. This condition exists only during startups for a relatively short period of time. The condition is alleviated when main feedwater is transitioned from the startup bypass valve to the high power main feedwater flow path. Although this condition is an operational inconvenience, the NRC has determined that it does not present a safety problem. The licensee is evaluating potential design alternatives for this system to eliminate this operational inconvenience. The NRC is monitoring licensee actions and will evaluate the licensee's final position on this matter when completed.

The NRC staff previously evaluated the technical issues raised by Ms. Brink's letter to you and CFUR's 2.206 petition to the NRC. The results of our evaluations are contained in NRC inspection reports and in supplements to the staff's Safety Evaluation Report for CPSES Unit 1. The NRC is handling the CFUR petition in accordance with its standard practices for addressing 2.206 petitions. We are in the process of preparing a reply to the petition submitted by CFUR and we will provide you with a copy of this response when it is issued. In addition, the Office of the Inspector General has been provided a copy of the CFUR petition for whatever action it deems appropriate.

I hope this has been responsive to your request. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
 Original Signed By:
 James M. Taylor
 James M. Taylor
 Executive Director
 for Operations

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OFC	: EDO	: GPA/CA	:	:	:
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NAME	: MVirgilio	: BBoger	: JPartlow	: FMiraglia	: JBlaha
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UNITED STATES
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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: ^{1/4/91}
DUE: ~~01/02/91~~

EDO CONTROL: 0006077
DOC DT: 12/11/90
FINAL REPLY:

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen

TO:
Dennis Rathbun, OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF: ** GRN **
Executive Director

CRC NO: 90-1278

DESC: ENCLOSURES LETTER FROM BETTY BRINK, CITIZENS FOR
FAIR UTILITY REGULATION CONCERNING 2.206 PETITION
TO MODIFY, SUSPEND OR REVOKE OPERATING LICENSE FOR
COMANCHE PEAK

ROUTING:
Taylor
Sniezek
Thompson
Blaha
RMartin, RIV
Lieberman, OE
Scinto, OGC

DATE: 12/18/90

ASSIGNED TO: NRR CONTACT: Murley

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

REPLY TO AUSTIN, TEXAS OFFICE.
REF. EDO 6010.

NCR Received: 12/18/90
NCR Action: DRSP/Crutchfield

Intro / (Clifford) / Fields

NCR Routing: Murley
Miraglia
Partlow
Gillespie
Russell
Smyre

ACTION
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY 12/27/90

Rec'd 12/19

