

August 14, 1984

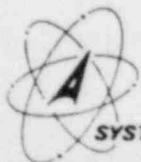
Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response
Office of Inspection & Enforcement
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Jordan:

In 1974, ServicAir Company made the decision to offer our specialized product line to the nuclear power plant industry. We were then in the process of preparing a bid to the FFTF program in Richland, Washington. In a meeting with HEDL, Richland, ServicAir Company was directed to seek approval of the AEC to determine if a flexible metal conduit would be permitted by the AEC for use with class IE circuits, in lieu of solid galvanized iron conduit (HWR). We met with Roy Moon of AEC to show and explain the applicability of using this possible alternate to HWR conduits. Mr. Moon stated that he felt personally that, based on performance data reviewed at that meeting and the apparent physical superiority of the ServicAir conduit in contrast to Anaconda's Greenfield, it would be approved for class IE circuits, but qualification to IEEE 323 (1974) would be necessary. He stated that if future RFQs from nuclear plant constructors specified conformance to IEEE 323 or its sub-part IEEE 344 (SEISMIC), then we could only bid if we had been so qualified.

We have had several instances where our bid was submitted with qualification test reports attached per IEEE bid requirement but the requirement was subsequently withdrawn by the constructor, or disregarded, and the contract awarded to a non-qualified supplier. This was done at Waterford III, Comanche Peak, Davis Besse, Byron, Braidwood, Riverbend, Beaver Valley, and South Texas to name a few.

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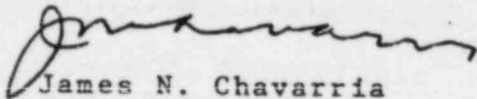
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As ServicaAir has spent considerable time and funding to achieve full qualification of our nuclear products, we need to know the actual position of the NRC with regard to safety related installations which use our type of material. A meeting with you is requested. Please advise when such a meeting can be scheduled.

Very truly yours,



James N. Chavarria
Vice President
Shielding Division

JNC:ba

P. S. Incidentally, your agent, Mr. Donald Driskill of the Arlington, Texas office has been investigating Commanche Peak, Waterford III and Riverbend in this same regard but we still are not aware of his findings. To our dismay, we continue to find that many purchasing departments still ignore the need for IEEE 323 qual status, despite the NRC's 1983 directive.