



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

Enclosure 2.

JUN 19 1973

Babcock & Wilcox Company
ATTN: J. F. Mallay
Manager, Licensing
P. O. Box 1260
Lynchburg, Virginia 24505

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your report number BAW-1403 transmitted with your letter dated April 30, 1973, and Revision 1 thereto dated June 1973 transmitted with your letter dated June 5, 1973. We have reviewed this report and note that the various lots of 70XX and 80XX weld metal with undocumented mechanical properties, have satisfactory chemistry documentation. Experience has demonstrated that the tensile and impact values of 80XX and 70XX materials rarely fail to meet the ASTM minimum requirements. We have therefore concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the mechanical properties of these 70XX and 80XX materials will be within acceptable tolerance. We also recognize that to remove and replace this material at this point in time may prove to be more deleterious than the acceptance of the "as is" conditions. On this basis we have concluded that those major components involved are acceptable for their intended service.

As you are aware, the lack of documented mechanical properties for these lots of weld metals, is in nonconformance with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code to which these components were designed and fabricated. We understand that you intend to pursue this matter further with the cognizant code authorities.

The implementation and effectiveness of your corrective action to prevent recurrence will be reviewed and evaluated during our continuing inspection program.

Your letter of June 5, 1973, states that the weld records were complete for the reactor vessels manufactured for other NSS vendors. Mr. Steinke of your staff informed us by telephone on June 20, 1973, that, during the time period covered, reactor vessels were the only reactor coolant system components manufactured for other NSS vendors.

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Your cooperation concerning this matter is appreciated.

Yours truly,

R. H. Engolken
Assistant Director for
Construction & Operation
Directorate of Regulatory
Operations

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