

DMB-016

JAN 30 1985

Dockets Nos. 50-277
and 50-278

Mr. Edward G. Bauer, Jr.
Vice President and General Counsel
Philadelphia Electric Company
2301 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

Dear Mr. Bauer:

SUBJECT: WETWELL-TO-DRYWELL VACUUM BREAKERS

The staff issued Generic Letter (GL) 83-08 dated February 2, 1983 to all licensees of operating reactors and applicants for operating licenses with plants having a Mark I containment. This letter requested information related to potential failure mode of the wetwell-to-drywell vacuum breakers during the chugging and condensation oscillation phases of a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). As stated in this letter, this issue was discovered at the time the generic phase of the Mark I Containment Long-Term Program was near completion. The Mark I Owners group committed to resolve this issue, although not necessarily as part of the NUREG-0661 Long Term Program. You responded to GL 83-08 on June 9, 1983.

Subsequent to your response, Continuum Dynamics, Inc., under contract to the General Electric Company, developed additional methodology for predicting vacuum breaker valve dynamics. The staff has evaluated this additional methodology and determined that it is acceptable for use in analyses and qualification of Mark I wetwell-to-drywell vacuum breaker valves. The staff Safety Evaluation was forwarded to General Electric by a letter from D. Vassallo to H. Pfefferlen dated December 24, 1984. A copy is enclosed.

Using the methodology evaluated in the enclosure, and consistent with the restrictions described therein, you should perform a plant-specific evaluation for your facility and provide the results to supplement your previous response to GL 83-08. The results of your evaluation should provide the basis for structural modifications to the vacuum breakers or justification for the acceptability of the as-built vacuum breakers. We request this information be provided within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

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Mr. Edward G. Bauer, Jr.

-2-

This request for information was approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Clearance Number 3150-0091 which expires October 31, 1985.

Sincerely,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

JOHN F. STOLZ*

John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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