

50-277
50-278



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 15, 1996

Mr. George A. Hunger, Jr.
Director-Licensing, MC 62A-1
PECO Energy Company
Nuclear Group Headquarters
Correspondence Control Desk
P.O. Box No. 195
Wayne, PA 19087-0195

SUBJECT: RESPONSE REGARDING USE OF BWRVIP-18 INSPECTION GUIDANCE AND REVIEW
OF FLAWS FOUND IN CORE SPRAY SYSTEM COMPONENTS, PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC
POWER STATION (PBAPS), UNITS 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. M96336 AND M96337)

Dear Mr. Hunger:

By letter dated August 6, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated September 12, 1996, you informed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff of your intentions to modify your existing commitments associated with NRC Bulletin 80-13, "Cracking in Core Spray Spargers," dated May 12, 1980, during the eleventh refueling outage (2R11) at PBAPS Unit 2. Specifically, you stated that you planned to modify the scope and examination techniques that you have previously used to perform inspections of the core spray piping. This modification would follow the industry guidance contained in the BWR [Boiling Water Reactor] Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) document, "Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-18)," dated July 26, 1996.

For the reasons set forth in the enclosed evaluation, the staff finds that the scope and inspection methods used for the inspection of the core spray internal piping at PBAPS Unit 2 are acceptable for this outage, 2R11. It should be noted that the NRC staff is presently reviewing the acceptability of using BWRVIP-18 generically for all BWRs. While the staff has not identified any major deficiencies in the BWRVIP's technical assessment at this time, neither has the staff made a determination as to its generic acceptability. Therefore, you should be aware that if concerns are identified during the staff's generic review of BWRVIP-18, and if the licensee intends to follow the BWRVIP-18 guidance in the future, the NRC staff may request that the licensee also address these concerns on a plant-specific basis. In your August 6, 1996 letter, you informed the NRC that you intended to adopt the BWRVIP-18 inspection guidelines for future outages at Unit 3 as well. The staff is still considering the acceptability of using the BWRVIP-18 at Unit 3 concurrent with its generic review of BWRVIP-18. You are requested to inform the staff of your intentions for inspecting Unit 3 core spray system piping prior to the next Unit 3 outage taking into account any generic staff evaluations of BWRVIP-18 available prior to the outage.

By letter dated September 26, 1996 (two letters) and September 27, 1996, you informed the staff of crack-like indications identified in the tee-box cover plate in the core spray internal piping at the 120° reactor pressure vessel penetration in PBAPS Unit 2. You also provided an evaluation of the flaws and proposed a use-as-is disposition of the flaws for one operating cycle. For

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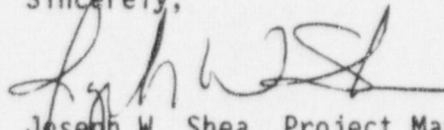
G. Hunger, Jr.

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the reasons set forth in the enclosed evaluation, the staff finds that sufficient margins exist to operate the plant for one additional cycle with the identified flaw. Consistent with the conclusion section of the enclosed evaluation, you are requested to inform the staff of your reinspection plans or repair plans for the Unit 2 tee-box cover plate prior to the next Unit 2 refueling outage.

If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 415-1428.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Shea', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph W. Shea, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-277/50-278

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 415-1428.

Sincerely,

/S/

Joseph W. Shea, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-277/50-278

Enclosure: RAI

cc w/encl: See next page

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DATE	6/3/96	6/3/96	11/12/96	11/15/96	

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Units 2 and 3

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