CHARLES H. CRUSE

Vice President Nuclear Energy

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S & D.R. BRANCH US NRC

63 FR 38865 July 20, 1898

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September 22, 1998

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

ATTENTION:

Mr. David L Meyer, Chief

Rules Review and Directives Branch

SUBJECT:

Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant

Unit Nos. 1 & 2; Docket Nos. 50-317 & 50-318

Request for Comments; Draft NUREG-1633, "Assessment of the Use of Potassium Iodide (KI) As a Protective Action During Severe Reactor Accidents"

(63 FR 8865, July 20, 1998)

We have reviewed draft NUREG-1633, "Assessment of the Use of Potassium Iodide (KI) As a Protective Action During Severe Reactor Accidents," concerning the historical use, technical basis, and industry experiences with KI as a supplemental protective action for the general public.

We endorse the draft NUREG's conclusion that careful consideration should be given to whether the use of KI for the public during an emergency is advantageous. The draft NUREG accurately states that "considering" stockpiling or predistribution of KI as a protective action will not add any significant public health and safety benefit beyond the existing emergency planning practices at commercial nuclear power plants.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company also agrees with the staff's assessment in SECY 98-061 "Staff Options for Resolving a Petition for Rulemaking Relating to Re-evaluation of the Policy Regarding the Use of Potassium Iodide (KI) by the General Public After a Severe Accident at a Nuclear Power Plant." We endorse Option 2. This option recommends denying the petition and supports Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee policy statement discussed in draft "Federal Register Notice on Potassium Iodine Policy," COMSECY 97-028, which maintains that evacuation and sheltering are the primary protective actions. We strongly urge the NRC to reconsider its approval of the proposed rulemaking petition.

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Should you have questions regarding this matter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Very truly yours,

CHC/JMO/dlm

cc: Document Control Desk, NRC

R. S. Fleishman, Esquire

J. E. Silberg, Esquire

S. S. Bajwa, NRC

A. W. Dromerick, NRC

H. J. Miller, NRC

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Vice President Nuclear Energy Baltimore Gas and Electric Company Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant 1650 Calvert Cliffs Parkway Lusby, Maryland 20657 410 495-4455



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