



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

January 20, 1988

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The Honorable John Glenn, Chairman
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to the concerns raised in your December 2, 1987 letter regarding the stainless steel material designated as E-Brite 26-1. I want to assure you that the Commission takes this matter seriously and we are continuing our efforts to ensure that the public health and safety are protected.

In June 1986, the NRC received an allegation that E-Brite 26-1 was unsuitable for use in nuclear power plants. Since then, we have undertaken a number of actions to address the issue, as follows:

1. In August 1986, the NRC staff met with the allegor to discuss his concerns and review any other available, pertinent information.
2. In September 1986, the staff inspected the offices of The BOC Group. The BOC Group is the current holder of records from Airco Vacuum Metals (AVM), the developer of E-Brite 26-1. Because the concerns expressed principally involved AVM, the staff inspected only BOC. The results of that inspection are documented in NRC Report No. 99901063/86-01.
3. In May 1987, after further correspondence with the allegor in which he indicated that fraud might be involved with the test data used to obtain code approval of E-Brite 26-1, the NRC staff notified the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) of the allegation. The staff also gave a copy of the allegation to the current patent holder for E-Brite 26-1, Allegheny Ludlum Steel.
4. In June 1987, the NRC staff reviewed the court records in the case of PVI Industries vs. Wattie Wolfe Company and The BOC Group. The court case involved failure of E-Brite 26-1 at an Air Force base.
5. In July 1987, the issue of falsification of data to obtain ASME Code approval was referred to the NRC Office of Investigations.

Originated: NRR:Conway

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

RD-9-1

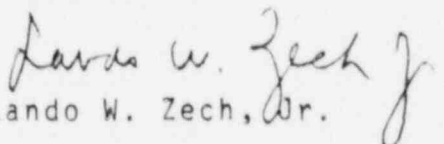
Recently, the NRC has received verbal information concerning use of E-Brite 26-1 in specific nuclear power plants, as follows:

1. The Perry Nuclear Power Plant was reported to have E-Brite 26-1 tubes in the main condenser. NRC followup determined that the tubes had been fabricated of 304 stainless steel, not E-Brite 26-1.
2. An NRC staff member thought that Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2) might have E-Brite 26-1 in some heat exchangers. An inquiry determined that the two shutdown cooling heat exchangers had been retubed in 1981 with E-Brite 26-1, furnished by Allegheny Ludlum. The staff is currently reviewing this use of E-Brite 26-1 and has scheduled an inspection of the Allegheny Ludlum production facility. If other utilities are identified as a result of that inspection, followup action will be taken.

The NRC staff has not been able to substantiate any safety problem to date as a result of the possible use of E-Brite 26-1 in nuclear power plants. However, the staff has taken and will continue to take prudent actions to determine the validity of the fraud allegations and to follow leads on the use of E-Brite 26-1 at specific plants. In addition, the NRC staff is developing an Information Notice to alert the industry to the issues raised regarding E-Brite 26-1. Should the ASME review of the fraud allegations, which should be completed in two months, or our own investigation conclude that the advertised properties of E-Brite 26-1 are in question, further steps to query all licensees as to the use of E-Brite 26-1 would be taken.

In telephone conversations on December 18, 1987 and January 6, 1988, the NRC staff briefed Mr. Stephen Ryan of the staff of the Governmental Affairs Committee on the status of the NRC actions on this matter. We will continue to keep him informed of any significant new information.

Sincerely,


Lando W. Zech, Jr.

cc: Senator William V. Roth, Jr.



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JSLA

ACTION

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM:

DUE: 12/21/87

EDO CONTROL: 003358

DOC DT: 12/02/87

FINAL REPLY:

SEN. JOHN GLENN, CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TO:

CHAIRMAN ZECH

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

** PRIORITY **

SECY NO: 1399

CHAIRMAN ZECH

DESC:

ROUTING:

EXPRESSES CONCERN RE USE OF STAINLESS STEEL
PRODUCT IDENTIFIED AS E-BRITE 26-1 IN COMMERCIAL
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

STELLO
TAYLOR
REHM
MURRAY
REGIONS I - V

DATE: 12/11/87

ASSIGNED TO: NRR

CONTACT: MURLEY

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

NRR RECEIVED: DECEMBER 11, 1987

ACTION:
DRIS: Partlan

NRR ROUTING: MURLEY/SNIEZEK
MIRAGLIA
ADT
GILLESPIE
THOMAS
BLAHA
MOSSBURG

ACTION

DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY *December 16, 1987*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-87-1399 LOGGING DATE: Dec 11 87
ACTION OFFICE: EDO
AUTHOR: J. Glenn
AFFILIATION: U.S. SENATE
LETTER DATE: Dec 2 87 FILE CODE:
SUBJECT: Express concern re use of stainless steel product
identified as E-Brite 26-1 in nuc reactors in
commercial nuc power plants
ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack
SPECIAL HANDLING: None
NOTES:
DATE DUE: Dec ²¹~~24~~ 87
SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION:

EDO --- 003358