



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

50-277/278

February 12, 1999

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

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR BULLETIN 96-03, "POTENTIAL PLUGGING OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SUCTION STRAINERS BY DEBRIS IN BOILING-WATER REACTORS," DATED MAY 6, 1996, PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC POWER STATION (PBAPS), UNITS 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. M96160 AND M96161)

Dear Mr. Edwards:

On May 6, 1996, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin (BL) 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors," to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits for boiling-water reactors (BWRs). The NRC issued BL 96-03 to ensure that the emergency core cooling systems (ECCS) in BWRs can perform their intended safety function to mitigate the effects of a postulated loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). The BL provided three options for resolving this issue including (1) installation of large capacity passive strainers, (2) installation of self-cleaning strainers, or (3) installation of a backflush system.

In BL 96-03, the NRC staff specifically requested that licensees submit the following reports for each of their facilities:

1. A description of planned actions and mitigative strategies to use, the schedule for implementation, and proposed technical specification, if appropriate.
2. A report confirming completion and summarizing actions taken.

By letter dated November 1, 1996, PECO Energy Company (the licensee) responded to BL 96-03 for PBAPS, Units 2 and 3. The licensee stated that it planned to install large capacity passive strainers which would be designed using the guidance in the Boiling Water Reactors Owners Group Utility Resolution Guidance (URG). The NRC staff reviewed the URG and issued a safety evaluation on August 20, 1998. By letter dated November 25, 1998, the licensee informed the NRC staff that it had completed all actions requested by the bulletin. These actions included completion of the installation of new large-capacity, passive strainers on the Residual Heat Removal and Core Spray system pump suction lines at PBAPS, Units 2 and 3. The modification work was completed on Unit 3 in October 1997 during refueling outage 3R11, and on Unit 2 in October 1998 during refueling outage 2R12.

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The NRC staff has reviewed your response and has determined that the actions taken should minimize the potential for clogging of ECCS suction strainers and ensure the capability of the ECCS to provide long-term cooling following a LOCA as required by 10 CFR 50.46. The NRC staff considers your actions responsive to the concerns raised in BL 96-03. Therefore, BL 96-03 is closed for your facilities. Detailed reviews of your strainer design and 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation may be performed on a plant-specific basis in the future.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - 1/11
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-277 and 50-278

cc: See next page

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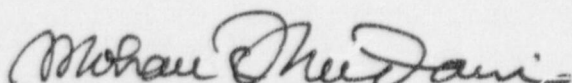
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