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May 29, 1986

Docket No. 50-277
50-578

Mr. Daniel R. Muller
BWR Project Directorate #2
Division of BWR Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
Control Room Upgrade - Carpet

REFERENCE: (1) Correspondence dated July 22, 1985,
S. L. Daltroff, PECo, to J. F. Stolz, NRC
(2) Correspondence dated October 10, 1985,
J. F. Stolz, NRC, to E. G. Bauer, Jr., PECo

Dear Mr. Muller:

This letter modifies the previous description provided in reference (1) for the control room carpet recently installed at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and documents a telecon with the NRC that clarified the NRC Safety Evaluation approving installation of the carpet.

In the reference (1) letter, we stated that the carpet would have a Class 1 rating. ASTM E-648 requires a critical radiant flux of more than 0.45 watts per square centimeter for a Class I rating. The fire tests on the proposed carpet measured a Critical Radiant Flux of 1.01 watts per square centimeter which is significantly better than the minimum requirements for a Class I rating. This statement was based on the test results of similar carpet material installed in the Washington Nuclear Plant's (WNP-2) control room. The NRC Safety Evaluation, issued October 10, 1985 (reference 2), referred to this information.

On December 26, 1985, samples of the carpet that were purchased for installation in the Control Room at Peach Bottom were tested by the manufacturer in accordance with the Philadelphia Electric Company (PECo) specification. The test measured a Critical Radiant Flux of 0.64 watts per squar.

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centimeter. In accordance with ASTM E-648, 0.64 watts per square centimeter qualifies the installed carpet as a Class 1 interior finish since it is greater than 0.45 watts per square centimeter.

The Critical Radiant Flux is a measure of minimum incident radiant heat flux from a fire or other source necessary for the carpet to sustain a flame spread. The amount of heat the carpet would see is a function of the combustible loading of the Control Room. Since the carpet installed meets the classification of a Class 1 carpet and the quantity of combustibles in the Control Room is low, we believe the lower critical radiant flux will not adversely affect the level of fire safety in the Control Room.

The second issue deals with an NRC Safety Evaluation Report, issued October 10, 1985, approving the carpet installation. The report stated that the existing vinyl asbestos tile would be replaced by the carpet. This statement conflicts with our proposal to install the carpet over the existing vinyl asbestos tile floor as stated in the referenced (1). In an October 28, 1985, telecon between PECo's Senior Licensing Engineer and the NRC Project Manager, we were informed that our plans to lay the carpet over the tile was acceptable, and it had not been the intent of the SER to prohibit this method of installation.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

cc: T. P. Johnson, Resident Site Inspector