Station Support Department

PECO NUCLEAR
A Unit of PECO Energ

10 CFR 50.55a

PECO Energy Company
965 Chesterbrook Boulevard
Wayne, PA 19087-5691

September 22, 1997

Docket No. 50-278

License No. DPR-56

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Center
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Unit 3
Proposed Alternative in Accordance with 10CFR50.55a(a)(3)(i)

References:
1. Letter from G. A. Hunger, Jr. (PECO Energy Company) to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC), dated January 30, 1997
2. Letter from J. W. Shea (USNRC) to G. A. Hunger, Jr. (PECO Energy Company), dated March 26, 1997
3. Letter from G. A. Hunger, Jr. (PECO Energy Company) to USNRC, dated April 29, 1997
4. Letter from J. F. Stolz (USNRC) to G. A. Hunger, Jr. (PECO Energy Company), dated July 2, 1997
5. Letter from G. A. Hunger, Jr. (PECO Energy Company) to USNRC, dated September 4, 1997

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarifications regarding the regulatory basis for the requested alternative concerning circumferential shell welds which was submitted to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) in the Reference 5 letter. As discussed in the Reference 4 letter, PECO Energy Company (PECO Energy) received approval for an alternative plan for the examination of the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station (PBAPS), Unit 3 Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) shell welds. In the Reference 5 letter, PECO Energy requested approval of an additional Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) alternative weld examination plan for PBAPS, Unit 3 in accordance with 10CFR50.55a(a)(3)(i), pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(5), for the next two operating cycles.

This request was consistent with the information contained in Information Notice (IN) 97-63, "Status of NRC Staff's Review of BWRVIP-05."

PECO Energy will be performing an examination of the reactor vessel longitudinal shell welds to the maximum extent practical from the inner diameter, within the constraints of vessel internal restrictions. The extent of weld examination coverage anticipated for the longitudinal shell welds is identified on Table 1 of Reference 3, as approved in the Reference 4 letter. It should be noted that our current examination plan is designed to provide longitudinal weld coverage, however, incidental coverage will result in an estimated portion of 2-3 percent of the intersecting horizontal weld.

These proposed examinations are an alternative to the augmented examinations specified in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(2) for circumferential welds, and an alternative to the inservice inspection requirements for circumferential welds in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, 1980 Edition through Winter 1981 Addenda (Table IWB-2500-1, Examination Category B-A, Item No. B1.11).

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

G. A. Hunger, Jr.

G. A. Hunger, Jr.,
Director-Licensing

Attachment

cc: H. J. Miller, Administrator, Region I, USNRC
W. L. Schmidt, USNRC Senior Resident Inspector, PBAPS