

CHARLES H. CRUSE
Vice President
Nuclear Energy

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



May 1, 1998

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

SUBJECT: Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
Unit Nos. 1 & 2; Docket Nos. 50-317 & 50-318
Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Docket No. 72-8
Clarification of Notice of Violation and Request for Extension of Response
Time Regarding Inspection Report Nos. 50-317/98-01 and 50-318/98-01

REFERENCES:: (a) Letter from Mr. L. T. Doerflein (NRC) to Mr. C. H. Cruse (BGE), dated April 15, 1998, NRC Region 1 Integrated Inspection Report Nos. 50-317/98-01 and 50-318/98-01 and Notice of Violation
(b) April 27, 1998 Teleconference Between BGE and NRC Staff

By Reference (a) you issued a Notice of Violation containing two violations of NRC requirements identified during your inspection conducted from February 8 to March 14, 1998. The first cited violation (Violation A) concerns NRC regulation 10 CFR 72.11 due to failure to provide the NRC complete and accurate information in the 1989 site-specific license application for an independent spent fuel storage installation. The second cited violation (Violation B) concerns NRC regulation 10 CFR 72.48 for making a change to the evaluation for the dry shielded canister top end drop accident, which you deem involves an unreviewed safety question, without prior NRC approval. The purpose of this letter is to document the clarification we received regarding Violation B (Reference b), and to request an extension of the response time for both violations.

Clarification of Violation B

After reviewing the content of Violation B in the Notice of Violation and the detailed description of Violation B provided in the accompanying inspection report, we were unclear as to the reason behind the NRC's determination that the change we made to the evaluation of the dry shielded canister vertical top end drop accident involved a malfunction of a different type than any evaluated previously in the Updated Safety Analysis Report. Specifically, the Notice of Violation states that the reason for NRC's determination of a new malfunction is the elimination of the gap between the guide sleeve and the fuel

9805070267 980501
PDR ADDCK 05000317
G PDR

JE 01

May 1, 1998

Page 2

assembly. The inspection report, however, discussed potential concerns with the calculational and testing methods we employed to demonstrate fuel assembly retrievability.

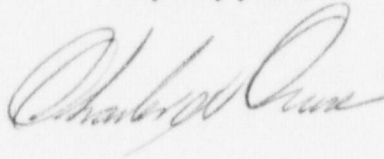
In order to provide appropriate response to the violation, we contacted members of your staff, Messrs. E. Leeds and T. Kobetz, to get clarification (Reference b). Messrs. Leeds and Kobetz confirmed that the reason for NRC's determination of a new malfunction is the elimination of the gap, and that technical concerns associated with fuel assembly retrievability were not the concern prompting the cited violation. We are currently reviewing technical information related to the matters discussed in the inspection report. It is our understanding that the technical concerns will be addressed in future NRC inspections or a license amendment request.

Request for Extension of Response Time

The Notice of Violation requested a written response within 30 days of the date of Reference (a). Since we are currently reviewing the related technical information and also engaged in a refueling outage, we request an extension of the response time to June 3, 1998. This should allow us sufficient time for careful consideration of the programmatic issues related to this inspection. This extension request was discussed with the NRC Resident Inspectors and in Reference (b).

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

Very truly yours,



CHC/GT/dlm

cc: R. S. Fleishman, Esquire
J. E. Silberg, Esquire
S. S. Bajwa, NRC
A. W. Dromerick, NRC

H. J. Miller, NRC
Resident Inspector, NRC
R. I. McLean, DNR
J. H. Walter, PSC