

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

50-317/318

June 14, 1989

Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Zech:

We are writing to express our concerns about the operational safety violations at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant.

We have been fortunate in Maryland that, until very recently, there have been no serious problems at Calvert Cliffs, such as those that characterized the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Plant. Indeed, for over a decade, Calvert Cliffs was widely regarded as a model plant. However, the safety and procedural violations which led the NRC last December to place the facility on the "watch list" of nuclear plants requiring close monitoring, and the new violations recently cited by the NRC's special team inspection, have undermined public confidence in the operations and management of the nuclear station.

To their credit, Baltimore Gas and Electric officials acknowledge the downward slide in their nuclear safety record and have expressed a commitment to make procedural compliance and plant safety the first priority in operating Calvert Cliffs. The Company's recent decision to delay start-up of the two reactors until corrective procedural and maintenance actions are taken is a positive first step in demonstrating this commitment. However, further efforts and effective implementation of a corrective action plan will be needed before confidence in the facility can be restored.

There is no room for complacency in the operations of an atomic power plant. Every precaution must be taken to ensure that nuclear power plants operate under the strictest of safety procedures. In this regard, the NRC's actions with respect to Calvert Cliffs appear to be timely and appropriate.

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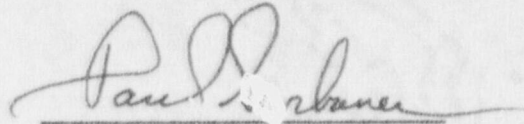
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We ask that you continue to keep us informed of the NRC's efforts to assure that the management and employees of the facility will follow the strict procedures required to safely run the plant.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator