

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Executive Director for Operations

SAFE END WELDS ON BEAVER VALLEY, UNIT 1

The Committee's November 20, 1974 operating license report of Beaver Valley, Unit 1, identified a problem with safe ends as quoted:

"Problems have been reported with the safe ends on the Beaver Valley Unit 1 reactor pressure vessel, which were fabricated by a build-up of stainless steel weld metal. The interfacial region between the nozzle and weld metal has been reported to contain a narrow zone of relatively high hardness, whose safety significance has not been assessed completely. The Regulatory Staff is evaluating the safe ends to determine whether corrective actions are necessary. This matter should be resolved in a manner satisfactory to the Regulatory Staff and the ACRS."

The Committee discussed this problem with the NRC Staff during its 177th and 182nd Meetings; it also had the benefit of review of the Staff's Supplement 1 to the Safety Evaluation, issued in May, 1975.

The Committee has reviewed the Staff's technical evaluation of the problem, and the proposed augmented inservice-inspection program for Beaver Valley, Unit 1, and for other reactors with similar safe ends. The Committee agrees that the Staff's requirements for a more extensive inspection program are suitably conservative until sufficient additional data are available to establish if there is an enhanced susceptibility to selective corrosion attack.

Since Beaver Valley, Unit 1, is one of several reactors with similar safe ends, the Committee wishes to be kept informed of future Staff requirements or amendments pertaining to augmented inspection programs for the other reactors and to a better definition of the long term effects of the hardened zones in the safe ends. The Committee wishes to be kept informed of the results of safe-end inspections as those results become available.



W. Kerr, Chairman