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 DENTON,H.R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director

SUBJECT: Requests reply to 800221 & 0625 ltrs re status of technical review of topical rept on Fox-Howlett rebar couplers.

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Add: H. Denton

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September 23, 1980

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Topical Report on Fox-Howlett Rebar Couplers-Status

Dear Mr. Denton;

As of this date we have not received an answer to our letters of Feb. 21, and June 25, 1980 (copies enclosed), inquiring into the status of the technical review of our topical report.

We continue to receive inquiries from contractors on the status of our topical report, most recently from a reinforcing steel placing contractor on a nuclear power plant for WPPSS in the Northwest. This contractor is anxious to use the Fox-Howlett Coupler in place of the specified 'filler' metal connector because of his many problems encountered during inclement weather. Also, the Fox-Howlett Coupler is at least four (4) times faster to install in the field and requires considerably less testing.

The time-saving effect on job completion alone would be substantial, resulting in savings to the utility of many millions of dollars.

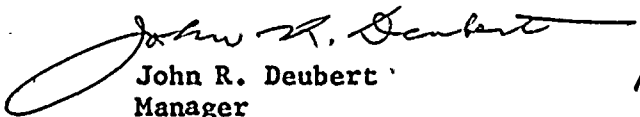
However, without NRC staff approval of our topical report the taper threaded connector can not be referenced in specific nuclear power plant applications. Without such an approval utilities, architect-engineering firms and contractors are reluctant to initiate the use of Fox-Howlett Couplers fearing a slow NRC review process and resulting construction delays.

Would you kindly ask your technical staff to let us know when the review of our topical report was rescheduled, as indicated in your letter of March 8, 1979, last paragraph, how the technical review is progressing and when we can expect taper threaded splices to be referenced in nuclear power plant applications.

Any effort on your part to help us gain this information will be very much appreciated. Thank you. TO/O
S

Very Truly Yours

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John R. Deubert
Manager

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H. DENTON 1 1

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JRD/pd:
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