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G. CARL ANDOSKINI
SUPERINTENDENT
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

June 29, 1979

BECO. Ltr. #79-128

Mr. Boyce H. Grier
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA. 19406

License No. DPR-35
Docket No. 50-293

Response to IE Bulletin #78-12,
#78-12A, #78-12B

Dear Sir:

In letters dated September 29, 1978, November 24, 1978 and March 19, 1978 you transmitted IE Bulletin Nos. 78-12, 78-12A, and 78-12B respectively, titled, "Atypical Weld Material in Reactor Pressure Vessel Welds". Boston Edison Company was requested to take the following actions in response to the subject bulletins:

- 1) Conduct a record search⁽²⁾ of all primary reactor pressure vessel weldments (excluding partial penetration welds) and submit the following information⁽³⁾:
 - a. The weld material manufacturer(s) and the types and form of materials supplied.
 - b. The specified properties of the weld materials and the completed weldments (Chemistry, tensile and impact properties, as appropriate).

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(2) The record search may be performed by the vessel manufacturer and the requested information reviewed as appropriate by each licensee prior to forwarding to the NRC. It is not the intent of this Bulletin to require each licensee to individually examine manufacturing records of a generic nature. Records of nonconforming conditions that may be identified by the manufacturer and are uniquely applicable to a specific vessel should however be carefully examined by the owner.

(3) Some of the information requested by this Bulletin may have been previously supplied to the NRC under the Surveillance Program. Information previously submitted may be referenced in lieu of resubmittal.

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Response

Per footnote #2, please refer to Combustion Engineering generic report titled "Information Requested by I&E Bulletin 78-12, Atypical Weld Material in Reactor Pressure Vessel Welds", as transmitted to Mr. Harold D. Thornburg, Division of Reactor Construction Inspection, dated June 8, 1979.

- 2) Describe the procedures utilized during fabrication to verify conformance to the specifications. Specifically provide the following:
 - a. Describe the type, number and dates of tests performed on welding materials to satisfy the material conformance testing requirements for each heat, lot or combination of heat and batch, etc., of welding materials used in the construction or repair of the reactor pressure vessel in your facility. Indicate whether each heat, lot or batch subdivision (coil or spool) was tested and the extent of such testing, i.e., were both ends of a coil or spool of wire tested for each sub-arc flux-wire combination or heat-flux batch combination.
 - b. Describe the type, number and dates of other tests such as procedure qualification, welder performance tests, in-process checks on post-weld tests which were performed.
 - c. For each of the tests described in 2(a) and 2(b) above, describe the parameters of each test and provide the results obtained.

Response

See response to Item #1.

- 3) Identify those cases of weld filler material which did not meet procurement specifications based on verification tests, i.e. mechanical or chemical properties. Describe the disposition action taken or the acceptance basis for utilization in vessel fabrication. In such cases, discuss the effect that the atypical weld composition has on the fracture toughness of the weld metal.

Response

Not applicable per content of Combustion Engineering Report.

- 4) Provide information on the availability of archive weld materials which might be used for verification purposes.

Response

Boston Edison Company does not have any archive material that could be used for verification purposes.

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We believe the responses given above adequately respond to your concerns. Should additional information on this subject be required, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



cc: Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of Project Management
Operator Licensing Branch
Washington, D. C. 20555

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