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Docket Number 50-346

License Number NPF-3

Serial Number 1957

July 23, 1991

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Subject: Babcock and Wilcox Topical Report BAW-1543, Revision 3 - Master
Integrated Reactor Vessel Surveillance Program

Gentlemen:

On August 19, 1988, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Amendment Number 116 to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS), Unit Number 1 Operating License, Appendix A, Technical Specifications (NRC letter Log Number 2676, TAC Number 66699). This amendment, in part, removed the reactor vessel material surveillance specimen withdrawal schedule from the Technical Specifications to reflect the NRC's acceptance of Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) Topical Report BAW-1543A, Revision 2, Addendum 1, November 1987, "Integrated Reactor Vessel Material Surveillance Program".

On October 12, 1989, the Master Integrated Reactor Vessel Material Surveillance Program (BAW-1543, Revision 3) was revised and submitted by the B&W Owners Group to the NRC (J. H. Taylor (B&W) to T. E. Murley (NRC)) for review and approval as required in 10CFR50, Appendix H. The B&W Owners Group letter to the NRC dated January 10, 1990, submitted an errata to BAW-1543, Revision 3 which further revised the surveillance capsule insertion and withdrawal schedule for the DBNPS. Toledo Edison's letter to the NRC dated January 15, 1990 (Serial Number 1758) requested approval of the revised insertion and withdrawal schedule. NRC approval of the schedule was granted by an NRC letter to Toledo Edison dated February 2, 1990 (Log Number 3160, TAC No. 75131). By letter to the B&W Owners Group dated June 11, 1991, the NRC approved Revision 3 of BAW-1543 (TAC No. 75131) and incorporated the above errata.

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Operating Companies:
Cleveland Electric Illuminating
Toledo Edison

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The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has solicited Toledo Edison support of the EPRI industry-wide "Supplemental Reactor Vessel Surveillance Program." The EPRI program is designed to provide data needed to complete existing irradiated materials data bases and to broaden the range of reactor vessel materials of interest. The program will provide additional data to support advancements in the understanding of the microstructural behavior caused by the reactor environment and will investigate the role of nickel and phosphorus in the embrittlement process of reactor vessel steels. EPRI has requested that the DBNPS act as the host reactor for an industry capsule with the capsule to be inserted during the upcoming seventh refueling outage (7RFO). Toledo Edison wishes to support this EPRI sponsored industry program; however, insertion of this industry capsule will require modification of the NRC approved capsule withdrawal schedule.

Currently there are two empty surveillance capsule holder tubes in the DBNPS reactor vessel. Each tube can hold two surveillance capsules. During the 7RFO, two capsules are scheduled to be inserted into holder tube WX in support of a B&W Owners Group program. These capsules, as well as the EPRI industry capsule, are outside of the scope of the BAW-1543, 10CFR50 Appendix H, required reactor vessel materials surveillance program and, accordingly, are not discussed in BAW-1543. Toledo Edison does not plan to use the other currently empty holder tube (XW) because of a mechanical binding problem experienced with it during the fifth refueling outage. Although no problems were experienced in removing capsules from holder tube XW during the sixth refueling outage, Toledo Edison prefers not to use holder tube XW for the EPRI capsule. Accordingly, to make a space available for the EPRI capsule, it is proposed that capsule AN1-F be removed from holder tube YX during the 7RFO.

The AN1-F capsule is a "standby" capsule that contains only base metal specimens that are not planned to be tested. The AN1-F capsule was originally scheduled for removal during the 7RFO. However, this schedule was revised in 1990 by the correspondence cited above.

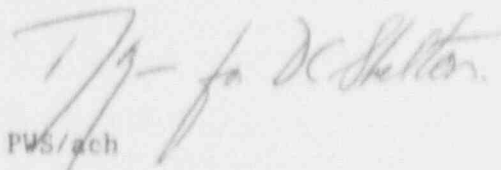
Unaware that NRC approval of BAW-1543 was forthcoming on June 11, 1991, by letter to the NRC dated June 10, 1991, the B&W Owners Group submitted an additional errata to BAW-1543, Revision 3 to reflect withdrawal of the AN1-F capsule, and insertion of the EPRI industry capsule during the 7RFO. On June 18, 1991, the B&W Owners Group submitted a second letter to the NRC with the same request, however, reflecting that the NRC had approved Revision 3 of BAW-1543. The B&W Owners Group letter stated that this minor change would be incorporated in a future revision of BAW-1543 which will likely be submitted within the next six months. Therefore, in order to support the EPRI Supplemental Reactor Vessel Surveillance

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Program, Toledo Edison requests interim NRC approval of the insertion and withdrawal schedule (Tables 3-20 and E-1 of BAW-1543 Revision 3) as revised by the June 10, and June 18, 1991 B&W Owners Group letters to the NRC. Approval by September 12, 1991 is requested to allow completion of procedure changes required for the capsule withdrawal/insertion which is currently scheduled to occur on September 18, 1991.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Mr. R. W. Schrauder, Manager - Nuclear Licensing, at (419) 249-2366.

Very truly yours,


PWS/ach

Enclosure

cc: P. M. Byron, DB-1 NRC Senior Resident Inspector
A. B. Davis, Regional Administrator, NRC Region III
J. R. Hopkins, NRC/NRR DB-1 Senior Project Manager
Utility Radiological Safety Board