

Babcock & Wilcox

a McDermott company

Nuclear Power Generation Division

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July 24, 1984

Mr. John F. Stolz
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

- References: (1) Letter: James H. Taylor to Mr. Steven A. Varga, U.S. NRC, "Extension of Retainer Lifetime to 3 cycles," January 14, 1980.
- (2) B&W Report - BAW-1496, "BPRA Retainer Design Report," May 1978.

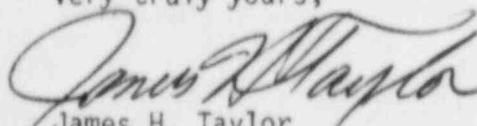
Dear Mr. Stolz:

Presently, the retainer described in References 1 and 2 is licensed for three cycles. B&W has undertaken a program to qualify this component for four 18 month cycles of operation. The attached paper, "Extension of Retainer Lifetime to Four Cycles," describes the examinations of two retainers after three cycles of operation in Oconee III. The paper further describes the results of the examination and compares the duty experienced by these retainers to the duty that would be seen by four cycles of operation.

Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit 1 (ANO-1) and Oconee Unit 1 will be reinserting retainers for a fourth cycle of irradiation on the upcoming reloads. Both units are currently scheduled for startup in December 1984. Approval of four cycle retainer usage is requested prior to that date. B&W plans to eventually use the retainers for four cycles in all B&W cores.

If you require any further information to approve the use of retainers for four cycles of operation, please contact C.F. McPhatter at (804)385-2401.

Very truly yours,


James H. Taylor
Manager, Licensing

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Attachment

cc: R.B. Borsum (B&W)

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