

September 23, 1996

Mr. Charles H. Cruse  
Vice President - Nuclear Energy  
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company  
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant  
1650 Calvert Cliffs Parkway  
Lusby, MD 20657 - 4702

**SUBJECT: NRC Region I Integrated Inspection Report Nos. 50-317/96-06 and  
50-318/96-06 and Notice of Violation**

Dear Mr. Cruse:

This report transmits the findings of the safety inspection conducted by NRC inspectors at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant from July 7 to August 24, 1996. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection. At the conclusion of the inspection, these findings were discussed with Mr. Katz and others of your staff.

Overall, the NRC has concluded that your facility was operated in a safe manner. The reactor coolant pump replacement on Unit 1 was accomplished with an excellent safety focus that included a delay to ensure that Hurricane Bertha would not challenge nuclear safety. The subsequent Unit 1 startup was well coordinated and was completed with appropriate attention to detail. Also, our inspectors found that you had continued to have a good emergency preparedness program and an effective security program.

During this inspection, a review of the BGE performance in identifying and resolving problems was conducted. The inspectors found that regular and thorough self-assessments and quality assurance audits have been generally effective in identifying issues and focusing management attention on continued improvement. As a result, performance problems are being identified, evaluated, and effectively resolved to preclude recurrence. For example, the trip prevention program was a notable broad based initiative that has contributed to a reduction in the number of plant trips at Calvert Cliffs.

During this inspection period, we noted that the operability of the plant service water systems was challenged by micro and macro fouling of the service water (SW) heat exchangers. Also, there have been recurring problems with saltwater pumps and pump discharge check valves. Continued management attention to these issues is warranted. Due to the number and significance of the issues affecting the service water system, as described in the enclosed report, we would like to meet with you to discuss your assessment of the SW system and planned corrective actions. We will contact you in the near future to schedule the meeting on a mutually agreeable date.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the issue are described in detail in the attached inspection report. The violation is cited for failure to follow Calvert Cliffs procedures

during the return of a saltwater header to operation following system maintenance. The failure to properly complete a step in the procedures led to an inoperable emergency core cooling system (ECCS) pump room cooler. This occurrence was the second instance of failing to complete the alignment of a safety related system following service water system maintenance, and represents a weakness in the controls used to ensure that safety related activities are appropriately conducted.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and include any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. After reviewing your response to the Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction. However, if you find it necessary to include such information, you should clearly indicate the specific information that you desire not to be placed in the PDR, and provide the legal basis to support your request for withholding the information from the public.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L No. 96.511.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Lawrence T. Doerflein, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 1  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket/License Nos:      50-317/DPR-53  
                                 50-318/DPR-69

Enclosures:

1.      Notice of Violation
2.      NRC Region I Integrated Inspection Report Nos. 50-317/96-06  
         and 50-318/96-06

cc w/encls:

T. Camilleri, Director, Nuclear Regulatory Matters (CCNPP)

R. McLean, Administrator, Nuclear Evaluations

J. Walter, Engineering Division, Public Service Commission of Maryland

K. Burger, Esquire, Maryland People's Counsel

R. Ochs, Maryland Safe Energy Coalition

State of Maryland (2)

Mr. Charles H. Cruse

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