

SEP 20 1985

Docket No. 50-354

Mr. R. L. Mittl, General Manager
Nuclear Assurance and Regulation
Public Service Electric & Gas Company
P. O. Box 570, T22A
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Dear Mr. Mittl:

SUBJECT: VISUAL WELD ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

By letter dated July 31, 1985, you requested permission to adopt the provisions of Visual Weld Acceptance Criteria for Structural Welding at Nuclear Power Plants (VWAC), Revision 2. This document was prepared by the Nuclear Construction Issues Group. The results of the staff's review of this document were presented in a letter dated June 26, 1985 from J. P. Knight, NRC to D. E. Dutton, Southern Company Services.

The staff's position is that VWAC, Revision 2 represents a technically acceptable approach for visual inspection of structural weldments (and other non-ASME class structures) of nuclear power plants under the purview of American Welding Society Standard D1.1. However, VWAC, in our opinion, is not applicable to inservice inspections that are required by ASME Code Section XI.

Enclosed in your July 31, 1985 request were the Hope Creek FSAR pages documenting your proposed usage of VWAC. The staff will review the next FSAR Amendment to assure this information is fully documented. Additionally, your letter documents your intention to follow the recommendations of the Nuclear Construction Issues Group in the preparation of a training program for the Quality Control inspectors. The NRC staff, particularly regional inspectors, should be provided opportunities to review your training program and to observe the conduct of the training.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Walter R. Butler, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing

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PDR ADOCK 05000354
G PDR

cc: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter R. Butler".

Walter R. Butler, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

Mr. R. L. Mittl
Public Service Electric & Gas Co.

Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

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Public Service Electric & Gas Co. - 2 -

Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

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