

April 15, 1997

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. 50-317/97-01
AND 50-318/97-01**

Dear Mr. Cruse:

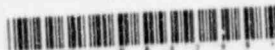
A safety inspection was conducted by NRC inspectors at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant from January 19, 1997 to March 1, 1997. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection. At the conclusion of the inspection, these findings were discussed with Mr. Katz and other members of your staff.

Overall, the NRC concluded that your facility was operated in a safe manner. During the period, a reactor downpower was conducted to investigate and isolate a small valve packing leak on Unit 1. Also, a fire occurred in a circulating water pump exciter which required immediate response by both operations and fire brigade personnel. Both activities were accomplished in an well coordinated manner, without complication.

However, during this inspection period, there were two events that revealed weaknesses in the conduct of some plant operations. Specifically, to support on-line maintenance on the Unit 1 service water heat exchangers, plant operators briefly exited the technical specification action statement to reset the action statement time clock. The maintenance activity was planned and implemented such that a challenge to the action statement time period would be necessary. Also, poor work practice by an auxiliary plant operator resulted in a salt water system gate being safety tagged shut when the gate was required to be open for safety train operability.

We believe that these events, combined with other recent events such as the inadequate verification of the ventilation system alignment during spent fuel handling and the poor control of a venting evolution as discussed in NRC Inspection Report 50-317&318/96-10, indicate a decline in performance. We also believe that management attention is needed to address this adverse trend.

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Charles H. Cruse

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Since the event regarding the resetting technical specification action statement time clock demonstrated a poor regard for the technical specification requirement, we request you respond to this letter within 30 days, describing your assessment of the event and any corrective actions you have taken or planned.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

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

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

Enclosure: NRC Region I Integrated Inspection Report Nos. 50-317/97-01
 and 50-318/97-01

cc w/encl:

T. Pritchett, 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
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