



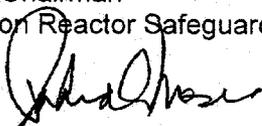
UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 7, 2001

CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM TO: George Apostolakis, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM: Richard A. Meserve 

SUBJECT: DIFFERING PROFESSIONAL OPINION ON STEAM  
GENERATOR TUBE ISSUES

The Commission recently received the attached memorandum from Dr. Hopenfeld dated April 24, 2001, on the subject of his differing professional opinion on steam generator tube integrity issues. Dr. Hopenfeld asserts that the Executive Director for Operations (EDO), in a March 5, 2001 memorandum to him, does not accurately summarize the ACRS's findings on this matter. Specifically, Dr. Hopenfeld indicates that the EDO misrepresented the ACRS's findings in stating that the ACRS "found that no immediate regulatory actions are necessary." In light of Dr. Hopenfeld's concerns, I request that you provide the ACRS's views on whether immediate actions, other than those already being taken by the staff, are needed. In this connection, please note that the EDO has tasked the staff to develop an Action Plan that addresses the findings in the ACRS report.

You should also be aware that I have asked the EDO to review Dr. Hopenfeld's memorandum and determine if there is any new information provided in it that would warrant additional examination or reconsideration of the staff's actions in granting the South Texas Unit 2 license amendment on March 8, 2001, or in granting other amendments allowing licensees to leave tubes in service that exceeded the 2V limit at the beginning of the last fuel cycle.

Attachments:  
As stated

cc: Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
 W. D. Travers, EDO  
SECY  
D. Powers, ACRS  
J. Larkins, ACRS