

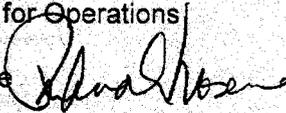


UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 4, 2001

CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Richard A. Meserve 

SUBJECT: DIFFERING PROFESSIONAL OPINION (DPO) ON STEAM  
GENERATOR TUBE INTEGRITY ISSUES

In a memorandum dated April 24, 2001, Dr. J. Hopenfeld informed the Commission of his concerns regarding "excessively degraded" steam generator tubes and your decision to close his Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) on steam generator tube integrity issues. Dr. Hopenfeld requested that the Commission take action to address what he believes to be an "unacceptable safety risk" to the public presented by excessively degraded steam generator tubes.

I request that you 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. If you determine that further consideration is warranted, you should take the necessary action and report your findings to the Commission. Your review and any actions that you initiate should be completed and the results reported to the Commission by June 1, 2001. Furthermore, I request that you keep me informed of any significant developments or delays associated with the staff's actions to address the Ad Hoc Subcommittee report.

As you are aware, an Ad Hoc subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) was formed at your request to review the technical merits of the DPO. In a memorandum dated February 1, 2001, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee informed you that the ACRS had reviewed and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Please be advised that I have also forwarded Dr. Hopenfeld's memorandum to the ACRS for an assessment of the accuracy of his characterization of the ACRS Ad Hoc Subcommittee report.

cc: Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
J. Hopenfeld, RES  
G. Apostolakis, ACRS  
D. Powers, ACRS  
SECY