

June 23, 2000

Mr. Michael Mulligan
5420 Maltdie Court
Sugar Hill, GA 30518

Dear Mr. Mulligan:

I am responding to your enclosed electronic mail to Mr. Victor Dricks of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Public Affairs Office, dated May 18, 2000. Your e-mail posed several questions regarding a Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 1, event notification filed by the licensee on March 24, 2000. Your questions are paraphrased as follows:

The event report indicated that the leakage was of minimal safety significance since it occurred during shutdown. What proof is there that the leak only existed during shutdown? How many main steam isolation valves (MSIVs) are assumed to be defective prior to a startup? Is there any proof that the valve leakage remains below required limits following a reasonable number of valve cycles? Does the license precondition the valves prior to conducting leak testing?

The event notification stated, in part, that the "condition constitutes a degraded condition of a principle [sic] safety barrier found while Unit 1 was shutdown." The wording of the licensee's notification indicates that the condition was identified while the unit was shutdown, not that the condition only existed while the unit was shutdown.

With respect to your remaining questions, the NRC resident and region-based inspection staff routinely review MSIV performance against design and licensing basis requirements as part of the inspection program. Most recently, NRC review of MSIV performance was addressed on page 6 of Inspection Report Nos. 05000387/99011 and 05000388/99011, issued December 17, 1999. The licensee submitted Licensee Event Report (LER) 50-387/00-002 on April 21, 2000, as a follow-up to the event notification referenced in your e-mail. Resident inspector review of LERs is a routine inspection program activity. This MSIV performance deficiency will therefore be addressed in a future inspection report.

NRC inspection reports and licensee LERs are available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at

M. Mulligan

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<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). We appreciate your keeping us aware of the issues that you are concerned with at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert G. Schaaf, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: E-mail dated May 18, 2000

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/RA/

Robert G. Schaaf, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: E-mail dated May 18, 2000

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