

Caroline

NYS SENATOR

JUN 12 2000

79 Miller Hill Drive
LaGrangeville, NY
12540 5604

STEPHEN M. SALAND

June 5, 2000

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The Honorable Stephen Saland
22 IBM Road
Poughkeepsie NY 12601

Dear Senator Saland:

I am writing about what I regard as a threat to our community. The June 4th edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal front page read, "Con Ed: Open nuke plant, with generators as is." They reported that on Feb 15th (Probably copper) tube failed with a leak rate of one gallon a second. That is a very fast leak rate! these tubes in heat exchanger generators have a long history of failing from stress (load)-corrosion cracking in which a small crack or many cracks grow as a function

of time under loading.

When one fails it indicates the likelihood that the useful life has ended and that all the tubes will fail in a short time.

They replaced just 800 tubes out of a total of 13,000 tubes. That leaves 12,200 tubes which have been stressed. Con Ed had spare generators on hand since the 80's. That suggests that they knew of the problems of stress-corrosion cracking which is well known in the industry.

Con Ed wants to start the plant up again with the old generators to meet the summer load. That's a business decision in which the engineering facts are disregarded. H. Rickover warned congress about such a situation. Most engineering designs of plants are to serve a life of 20 years. Then, the engineer washes his hands, so to speak. But the business men are rationalizing with pseudo engineering to get more economic life out of the plant.

Political persons in Westchester County oppose the reopening. We should too. If it blows, it will take us too! Three-Mile Island still has 2000 outstanding law suits. Chernoble is getting \$70,000,000 from President Clinton to shut it down permanently. It threatened all of Europe!

The consequences of failure are especially high in this high-density-population area. That increases the risk, hence, the decision should be made to replace all four of the generators before opening. Better Yet, not open at all.

$$\text{Risk} = P \times C$$

Where: C = the consequences of failure.
P = the probability of failure (this increases with time under load).

Sincerely,

Neil A Sinclair
Neil A. Sinclair
(845) 223 3749