

October 20, 2000

Mr. Thomas Gurdziel
9 Twin Orchard Drive
Oswego, NY 13126

Dear Mr. Gurdziel:

Thank you for your letter of September 13th, in which you asked some questions about a slide used during an Indian Point 2 meeting on May 3, 2000. I know you said in your letter that a reply to you was not needed; but, I would like to provide you with information that I believe will serve to clarify things that you've questioned.

In your letter, you note that slide #15, used in the above meeting, makes reference to a steam generator leak rate of 3.4 GPD (gallons per day) at 7:15 PM on February 15th, 2000 and that you had associated this 3.4 GPD rate per N-16 measurement with a 154 GPM (gallons per minute) actual rate. Because of this association, you expressed some concern about the adequacy of leak rate detection by N-16 measurement. These leak rates apply to two separate times, the smaller to tube leakage just prior to the tube failure and the latter to the 7:17PM time of the event when the tube failed, i.e. the tube crack opened up and passed more flow. So, these two significantly different numbers aren't reason for concern about the N-16 measurement level just prior to the tube failure. I should also point out that the tube leak of 3.4 GPD prior to the tube failure was significantly below the NRC approved IP2 Technical Specification limit of 432 GPD, allowed for plant operation. This is discussed on P. 26 of the NRC Augmented Inspection Team report dated April 28, 2000. I'm enclosing a copy of this report for your reference.

Hopefully, the above information will be helpful to you in dispelling the concern you expressed about the N-16 method for measuring steam generator tube leakage. If you have additional questions after you review this information, please don't hesitate to call me at (610) 337-5234.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Peter W. Eselgroth, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: as stated

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