

March 22, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management

FROM: Robert E. Moody, Project Manager, Section 1 */RA/*
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF TAC NO. MA9054

TAC No. MA9054 was opened to review River Bend Station License Event Report (LER) 99-016, "Thermally-induced Accelerated Corrosion of BWR Fuel," in response to a request from Jim Beall of Commissioner McGaffigan's staff. The request was prompted by a 2.206 petition, regarding damaged fuel cladding, which was denied by the NRC staff.

The licensee concludes in the LER that they had operated within the bounds of their licensing basis when the fuel cladding defects were present. The safety significance of fuel cladding defects is low, since they are considered in the licensing basis. Also, continuous monitoring of the reactor coolant system offgas provides early detection of fuel cladding perforations, allowing time to take appropriate actions to mitigate the problem.

No information in the LER was identified that would justify the need to change the decision to deny the 2.206 petition.

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