

EX 6

From: Wayne Schmidt
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Date: Mon, Jul 24, 2000 9:37 AM
Subject: Question?

Hello all I hope everyone is relaxed following the weekend and ready for another fine week dealing with Con Ed!!

As I was ruminating about several thing Con Ed said on Thursday I went back to take look at the enhanced training that Westinghouse provided on noise in 2000.

This training was prepared in a handout form, dated March 20, 2000. In the handout they say under BACKGROUND

" Review of the data using the setup from the 1997 outage showed no detectable degradation. This setup, however, had the 20% ID EDM notch set to be horizontal. A new set was made setting the 20 % ID signal to be at about 10 degrees (no 40 % notch was available on that standard) and the data showed some characteristics which, based on current understanding may show possible precursor signals, but the data were somewhat misaligned - most likely due to probe whipping (Figure 2-1).

During the course of the subsequent inspection of low row U-bends, three other indications were identified. Review of the 1997 data with the improved setup showed these indications to be detectable. Continued review of the 1997 data, including a limited review by NRC and INPO teams resulted in a number of suggestions which were reviewed in the larger context of the data, and incorporated into this training as appropriate. As these various reviews occurred over a period of time, during which the inspection was ongoing, it was decided that the U-bend +Pt data would be reanalyzed with all lessons learned incorporated"

There never was any change to the Data analysis guidelines to address noise either before, during or after the inspection.

The first question - is Westinghouse overstating their action taken to improve the signal to noise problems - it certainly was not taken prior to the outage?

Second - how much of an effect did you all have in identifying the poor signal issue - this is very important - since at the exit Con Ed and Westinghouse took all the credit and to an outside person it may appear that they did this before the outage even began - which is a mis-perception.

CC: [redacted] nrcsmtp, David Lew

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FOIA- 2001-0356

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