

JACK NORRIS

3802 Kessler Blvd., East Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46220-5106
jacknorris@comcast.net
317.840.3101

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David J. Vito, Sr. Allegation Coordinator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region 1
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Dear Mr. Vito:

Thank you for your response to my letter of March 16th.

The 2nd paragraph of your letter quotes the applicable ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and states "This subsection requires 100% visual inspection examination of the entire accessible containments surfaces. The Code also requires augmented inspection of inaccessible areas which are susceptible to degradation from environmental factors such as corrosion."

I talked with Mr. Barry J. Elliot yesterday and confirmed he wrote that part of your letter, and indicated my concerns were not his problem in that he only wrote the requirements and was not responsible for ensuring that they were met. "That was up to the regions."

I can't be any more direct than this: In the case of Davis-Besse somebody was signing documents that were not true, and there is a legal term for that. If the paper were true, there wouldn't be a 7" cavity in the reactor vessel pressure head. In the military they call it "pencil whipping the paper."

All that I am asking is that the staff address three systemic questions:

1. Does the existing paper trail indicate that all is OK in the primary containment areas?
2. Has the paper been audited and found to be in good bureaucratic order?
3. Is there extensive corrosion such as that found at Davis-Besse and Oconee in critical areas in other plants including the boiling water reactors?
4. If the answers to 1, 2 and 3 is "Yes," than I submit to you that the system is broken.

Your ENCLOSURE 1 is incorrect. "You indicated about 5 years ago" should read, "you indicated over 5 years ago."

I think you are looking at the licensee(s) to satisfy just your bureaucratic requirements and there is nobody out there kicking the tires and checking the dipstick.

Very truly yours,

J. J. Norris