

NRC staff has completed its review of licensee responses to Bulletin 2001-01, related to circumferential cracking of control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) nozzles. The staff review focused on those plants with a history of cracking or leakage in these nozzles, and those plants with a high susceptibility to cracking.

The first attached file contains the slides we intend to talk from during our briefing of Dr. Travers on Tuesday, October 2, 2001, from 4 - 5 p.m. in room O-17B4 and our Commissioners' TAs briefing on Wednesday, October 3, 2001, from 1 - 2 p.m. in the 18th Floor Conference Room

Of particular interest, the inspection plans and inspection history for H. B. Robinson, Davis-Besse, North Anna Unit 2, and Surry Unit 2 may not be sufficient to provide reasonable assurance of nozzle integrity until those licensees conduct their next inspections of their CRDM nozzles. For North Anna Unit 1, the staff is still reviewing the licensee's findings from its on-going inspection efforts.

To inform these licensees of the staff's findings, Brian Sheron contacted appropriate management levels of each licensee on Friday, September 28, 2001. The talking points used in those phone calls are provided in the second attached file "Talking Points." As indicated, the licensees were asked to consider acceleration of their inspection plans in accordance with the Bulletin, e.g., by the end of 2001, and to consider implementation of a more meaningful examination if the plant-specific qualification of their visual examination is not possible.

We continue to have additional staff-level phone calls with North Anna, Davis-Besse and Robinson.

If you have any questions on this information, please contact me at 415-2426 or Allen Hiser at 415-1034.

Thanks,
Jake Zimmerman, Lead PM Bulletin 2001-01
415-2426