

From: John Zwolinski, *NCR*
To: Brian Sheron
Date: 11/7/01 10:08AM
Subject: Questions in Response to Chairman

Attached are answers to the three questions the staffed received from the EDO's Office early this am.....Z

CC: Jacob Zimmerman; Samuel Collins

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What are the critical issues that still need to be resolved before making a final decision?

From the staff's perspective there are no technical issues to be resolved. Licensees may disagree with this conclusion. The Orders are in the final stages of development ensuring appropriate concurrences from other Offices such as OGC and OE. The staff intends to forward the plant specific Orders to the Commission with a cover memo providing five working days for Commission review.

When is a decision going to be made and what is the time line?

The staff is continuing to take a two pronged approach in addressing CRDM nozzle cracking. The first approach continues to be the staff's evaluation of plant specific information which **may** justify continued operation until the licensees next scheduled outage, thus precluding a premature plant shut down. The second approach which the staff has now completed, has been the development of a comprehensive deterministic evaluation which includes results from inspections to date. This second approach has resulted in the issuance of our Preliminary Technical Assessment for CRDM nozzle cracking. In addition to the development of this technical report, the staff has prepared plant specific Orders which take into account risk considerations in accordance with R. G. 1.174. The staff continues to review plant specific information for the two plants of concern. Both Davis Besse and D. C. Cook, have provided the NRR staff with additional information as recently as November 6th. Davis Besse also would like to show a video of past reactor vessel head inspections. This is being arranged for late in the afternoon of November 8th. NRR staff and management are prepared to move forward and issue Orders.

How are we going to interact with the affected licensees once a decision is made (e.g., are we going to tell them in a meeting)?

Prior to issuing plant specific Orders, the NRR Office Director will contact

each licensee and inform them of the staff's decision. This phone conversation will not only alert the two licensees to the proposed staff action but also afford each licensee the option of voluntarily committing to shut down and inspect by 12/31/01 without the issuance of an Order.