

3.4.2 The NRC failed to Provide Adequate Reactor Oversight Process Guidance

The LLTF found that the staff was having difficulty characterizing the significance of the Davis-Besse event. This difficulty appeared to stem from technical limitations of risk assessments and SDPs in that pressure boundary integrity does not appear to be treated explicitly in PRAs. As a result, the type and extent of wastage of the RCS pressure boundary encountered at Davis-Besse appeared to be more within the scope of traditional deterministic analyses than in a risk-informed framework. In fact, as of the time of the LLTF review, the SDP for this event had been in progress for 5 months, with no resolution. Members of the NRC staff expressed the opinion that, in the transition to the ROP, the agency has placed an over-reliance on risk information as opposed to deterministic methods.

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