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To: <NRCREP@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 19, 2003 11:24 PM
Subject: My Comments on Selected Parts of the FY 2004-2009 Strategic Plan

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 RDB received
 Apr 11/03

page 5 V Management Excellence I hope "corporate management" means NRC high level management.

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 68 FR 605968

(2)

page 5 Long Term Outcomes I don't like these all being negative. In particular, though, do you see how both the second and third would still be met if a barrier containing radioactive materials were totally eroded away, maybe except for a thin layer of stainless steel cladding. Clearly, another Davis-Besse would not be considered a problem. This is totally unacceptable to me.

page 6 "performance of these licensees is at or above acceptable safety levels" should read "performance of these licensees is no lower than the minimum acceptable safety level"

page 6 "incorporating sound science and operating experience to ensure that licensees have adequate safety margins" misses the use of substantial fines and license suspensions. (I feel these are quite necessary and also missing in the Davis-Besse situation.)

page 6 The line "The domestic nuclear industries have continued to meet the NRC's outcomes" is unfortunately, true. (See my comment on page 5.)

page 6 The licensee did NOT discover a cavity in a reactor vessel head during an inspection. The licensee did discover a cavity in a reactor vessel head during a upper head nozzle repair when, by incompetence, they started moving the load on the crane before it was above the nozzle, thus leading to a tilting nozzle and a then unmissable defect. (I still can't understand how they could do the repair without determining that there was sufficient metal behind the nozzle.) However, the worst part of this paragraph is the implication that this cavity was age related when it was lack-of-inspection related.

page 7 remove "using defense-in-depth principles and appropriately conservative practices that provide a margin of safety." This is incompatible with the use of risk-influenced principles now in vogue.

page 8 In carrying out its safety mission, the NRC does not use civil penalties, criminal prosecutions, license suspensions or revocations, with one exception. If you are a road contractor and lose your soil density instrument, it will cost you \$3000. Power plants pay nothing for losing their margin of safety. (Davis-Besse has paid nothing.)

page 8 The NRC may closely cooperate with its international counterpart agencies, but the IAEA is not one of them. The International Atomic Energy Agency should be considered to be one level above the NRC and the regulatory agencies of other countries.

page 8 Eliminate Safety Strategy 4 and renumber the others. (I consider risk-informed regulation as detrimental to the philosophy of defense-in-depth.)

Template = ADM-013

R-REFDS = ADM-03
 Call = J. Coyle (JCC11)
 L. W. Barnett (LWB)
 J. Smolik (ASS1)

page 9 (third bullet) Review the need for regional NRC offices in a time when commercial nuclear plant owners span more than one region.

page 9 (seventh bullet) Remove the words "risk-informing existing and future regulations."

page 11 Assessment Method, (last bullet) Note that Region III in particular has shown it was unable to recognize a PWR licensee with significant performance problems. However, INPO and NRC Headquarters apparently supplied them no help. This item will be a big challenge.

page 15 "When corrosion was discovered in the Davis Besse pressure vessel head, the NRC responded in an open fashion." This is a true statement, at least when applied to the people assigned to the 0350 panel. It is comforting to be able to talk with them.

I may have more to say later; I don't need a reply.

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel

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