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Thu, 10 Jun 2004 09:42:06 -0400 (EDT)
Received: from UCSUSA-MTA by mail.ucsusa.org
with Novell_GroupWise; Thu, 10 Jun 2004 09:48:30 -0400
Message-Id: <s0c82e6e.061@mail.ucsusa.org>
X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise Internet Agent 6.0.3
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2004 09:48:24 -0400
From: "Dave Lochbaum" <dlochbaum@ucsusa.org>
To: <ARB@nrc.gov>
Cc: <DJH.kp1_po.KP_DO@nrc.gov>
Subject: Re: UCS recommendations for Salem / Hope Creek
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
Content-Disposition: inline

Hello Randy:

I have no objections to the e-mail being placed in ADAMs. Thanks for =
checking.=20

I have every expectation and confidence that Region I will consider the =
issues in our letter in determining what to do.

With respect to conditions worsening, there's little doubt about it. =
According to the Independent Assessment Team, the Corrective Action =
Closure Board found about an 80% passing rate on corrective actions closed =
in March 2004, meaning that 20% of the corrective actions were closed =
improperly.=20

Picture working on an assembly line where 100 items pass every working =
period. If 20 percent of those items are defective at the end of the line, =
then the longer the line operates, the more defective items are =
produced.=20

The corrective action program at Salem and Hope Creek is broken. The =
longer the reactors operate, the larger the pile of improperly closed =
corrective actions. Or, the worse things get.=20

So, there's no doubt that conditions at Salem and Hope Creek are worsening.=
I grant you that it's not as clear when the worsening conditions warrant =
shut down.

Thanks,
Dave Lochbaum

>>> "A. Randolph Blough" <ARB@nrc.gov> 06/10/04 09:33AM >>>

Dear Dave Lochbaum,

Thank you for providing the UCS views well in advance of next week's meeting. We will review the letter carefully. I will need to consult with other staff on whether or not your request, based on its content, must be treated under 10CFR2.206. However, regardless of that determination, I assure you that I, along with other staff members, will consider your views in the very near term as we deliberate about our next steps with respect to Salem and Hope Creek.

Your email refers to worsening problems; as you may recall, I mentioned to you after the meeting in March that I did not share your view that the conditions are worsening. This is a question that I will continue to revisit frequently with the inspectors involved in these projects.

On an administrative matter, I believe I should place your incoming email to me into ADAMS, since it documents your wish that the UCS recommendations of 6/9/2004 not be labeled as a 2.206 request.

Would you have any objections to NRC placing your incoming email into ADAMS, publicly available?

Thank you again for your timely input.
Randy Blough

>>> "Dave Lochbaum" <dlochbaum@ucsusa.org> 06/09/04 08:31AM >>>
Hello Randy:

Attached is an electronic copy of a letter that's in the mail to you.

The letter contains our evaluation of the publicly available information about conditions at Salem and Hope Creek and our recommendations on what the NRC should do about the myriad and worsening problems.

Simply put, PSEG does not have a legal right to operate Salem and Hope Creek. NRC inspection reports and mid-cycle assessment letters over the past 18 months have chronicled programmatic breakdowns in PSEG's corrective action program. The recent independent assessments by Synergy, Utility Services Alliance, and the Independent Assessment Team reinforce NRC's findings.

Federal regulations - specifically, 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI - require operating nuclear power plants to be supported by effective corrective action programs. When the NRC issued operating licenses to PSEG for Salem and Hope Creek, the licenses contained an explicit condition that the reactors be operated safely AND in compliance with federal regulations - not one or the other.

The NRC should order PSEG to shut down Salem and Hope Creek until the defective corrective action program is repaired and made functional.

If the NRC bows, again, to industry pressure and allows Salem and Hope Creek to operate outside the law, at least the NRC should do for safety what it recently did for security --- establish some desired end point and Order PSEG to get there by a specified date. The safety hazard at Salem and Hope Creek is far more credible and substantial than the security threat. The public must be protected from that safety hazard as it has been from the security hazard.

As you well know, PSEG has a long, long history of making promises it can't or won't keep. Just go back and review your files for the various promises made by PSEG in order to trick NRC into allowing them to restart the Salem units in the late 1990s. How many of those promises were kept? NRC must not accept any more promises and instead must Order PSEG to shape up its act.=20

Please note that while UCS strongly recommends NRC Order PSEG to fix the unacceptable performance at Salem and Hope Creek, we do not view these recommendations as a request under 10 CFR 2.206 for enforcement action and hope NRC will not construe the letter as such.

Thanks,=20

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