

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE: OIG

AUTHOR: Tom Gurdziel
AFFILIATION: NY
ADDRESSEE: Hubert Bell
SUBJECT: Concerns primary containment issues at FitzPatrick

ACTION: Appropriate
DISTRIBUTION: Chairman, Comrs, EDO

LETTER DATE: 02/04/2006
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: OCM #8420
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: **DATE SIGNED:**

Chairman Nils J. Diaz

FYI
Tom Gurdziel

8420/SEA

9 Twin Orchard Drive
Oswego, NY 13126
February 4, 2006

Inspector General Hubert T. Bell
USNRC
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Inspector General Hubert T. Bell:

Last year FitzPatrick personnel identified a through wall leak of their Primary Containment. Reading what public documents were available to me at the time, I was particularly impressed with the repair.

A question that lingered, however, was why weren't they required to do an Integrated Leak Rate Test prior to startup? I waited for the final report. It provided no answer. Given that a previously unsuspected fracture occurred completely through the Primary Containment and, really, was only accidentally noticed, it makes sense to me to have considered a complete (ILRT) test. Can you tell me if this was done?

Can you tell me if the 40 psi pressure test that was done meets/exceeds the requirements for an ILRT? If it does not, can you tell me why it was accepted?

Finally, I would like to know if FitzPatrick Primary Containment surveillance testing since their last ILRT is considered adequate. Specifically, should an ILRT test interval shorter than 10 years be established there?

(The basis for my concern, as you have already probably guessed, is one lesson I learned from reading the Davis-Besse Lessons Learned report: ASME Code requirements, as presently applied by the United States commercial nuclear industry, DO NOT provide an adequate measure of safety for the public.)

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel

Copy:

→ Chairman Nils J. Diaz
Commissioner Edward McGaffigan, Jr.
Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield
Commissioner Gregory B. Jaczko
Commissioner Peter B. Lyons
Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich
David Lochbaum

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06 FEB 14 AM 8:43