

From: David Vito *DI*
To: SALEMHCSCWE
Date: 1/15/04 9:46AM
Subject: D. Lochbaum Call to Hub on 1/14/04 reSalem/HC SCWE review

A summary of the call, FYI.

DL called Hub yesterday, apparently in an effort to obtain a status of the Salem.HC SCWE review and a projected completion date. DL noted that one of the plants had just tripped and tried to draw a parallel w/Davis-Besse, asking Hub if NRC had considered not letting the plant startup because of the SCWE issue.

Hub informed DL that we were not shutting down the plant and added that we could not give him a deadline for the SCWE review.....but assured him that we were following the ROP and the Action Matrix and that we were continually evaluating the situation at Salem/HC. Hub reminded DL that this is not a simple matter and that it involves evaluating things that have evolved at the facility over a number of years. Hub told DL that we are not just looking at what they say or do, but whether results are achieved that contribute to an appropriate work environment. Hub acknowledged that we are in a new (merchant plant) environment, which the NRC understands has, at least to some degree, changed the balance in judgment calls that relate to power operation....but that we are trying to assure that at Salem/HC, that balance has not tipped to a point of excessive consideration of production over safety.

Hub told DL that we can't rush or hipshoot this matter, or "we will get it wrong." But Hub assured DL that we are moving forward deliberately, and that the staff is putting out considerable effort, and making good decisions about the people they are interviewing. Hub assured DL that we will move quickly when appropriate based on the results of the review, adding that it was in fairness to PSEG for us NOT to string this out.

Hub ended the conversation by restating that that we are continually evaluating this matter, but that at this time, we do not feel that plant shutdown is warranted. However, Hub assured DL that we do not think Salem/HC is "a bed of roses" and that our level of oversight and attention to the plant demonstrates that.

B-43