

From: A. Randolph Blough *RT*
To: Eugene Cobey
Date: 8/30/04 5:11PM
Subject: Fwd: NRC letters to PSEG - - initial UCS feedback

email from dave lochbaum

CC: Anne Passarelli ; Brian Holian; Chris Miller; Cornelius Holden; Daniel Orr; David Vito;
James Wiggins; Lisamarie Jarriel; Mel Gray; Scott Barber; Theodore Wingfield; Wayne Lanning

B-180

A. Blough
From: "Dave Lochbaum" <dlochbaum@ucsusa.org>
To: <arb@nrc.gov>
Date: 8/30/04 5:01PM
Subject: NRC letters to PSEG

Hello Randy:

Sorry I missed your calls. Thanks for faxing me the letters issued today to PSEG.

As you know, we've felt that conditions at Salem / Hope Creek mirrored those present in the mid 1990s that required fixing before Salem could safely restart. And we felt that if the reactors were not shut down during the restoration of appropriate safety performance levels, the NRC should at least issue a CAL to provide leverage for the next step if insufficient progress is made down the road.

Nevertheless, we recognize that the positions staked out in the letters today are important ones. We can only imagine how much effort was expended by the staff charting out this course of action.

In our view, the most commendable and laudable portion of the letters was the paragraph with the five steps authorized by the deviation from the Action Matrix. We note that the NRC has frequently labeled corrective action program problems as a cross-cutting issue in mid-cycle and annual assessment letters. This time, the NRC labeled safety conscious work environment as a cross-cutting issue, but went the additional step of outlining the regulatory response to that designation. That extra step is more likely to result in improved performance than the mere warning itself.

Thanks,

Dave Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3962
(202) 223-6133 x113
(202) 223-6162 fax