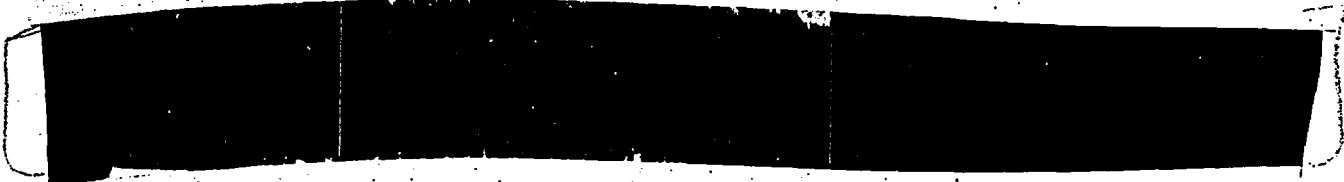


R3
From: Nirodh Shah
To: Richard Skokowski; Steven Orth
Date: Thu, Jan 26, 2006 9:14 AM
Subject: Update on Braidwood Tritium Issue

On 1/25/2006, Bwd held a media briefing to discuss the tritium contamination. This was in response to a Chicago Tribune article in that mornings paper. The breifing was attended by the Chicago Tribune, several Chicago area TV stations and several local newspapers. I did not attend the briefing, but Jeff Roman, the IEMA resident, did. He said there were a lot of questions and that the reporters were primarily focused on whether past or current station management would be held accountable (i.e., fired).

We also recieved a copy of the draft root cause report re: the source of the tritium contamination. According to this report there have been 22 cases of blowdown line leakage since 1996. In particular, the report stated that in 1996 there was a spill of 250,000 gallons from vacuum breaker 1, due to a primer valve failiure. Apparently, this spill was never captured in the CAP nor was the water sampled for radioactivity. This is the first time that either we were made aware of this event. Previously, the station had only informed us about spills in 1998 (VB-3) and 2000 (VB-2). Additionally, the 2000 RCR does not discuss a spill in 1996.



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The draft root cause is in the process of being reviewed by the station PORC, who raised some of the same issues that we did.

I will pass along any additional info I get on either of these issues after I get briefed by the licensee.

thanks...N

CC: Gregory Roach; Jan Strásma; John House; Mahesh Chawla

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