

FOIA Resource

From: uid no body [nobody@www.nrc.gov]
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To: FOIA Resource
Subject: WWW Form Submission

FOI/PA REQUEST

Case No.: 2010-0334
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Specialist: Raphael
Related Case: _____

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
() on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at 15:39:47

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Desc: All NRC staff records (including emails, drawings, notes, draft reports, calculations, evaluations, internal OE summaries, inspector information exchange communications) related to the discovery during the Unit 1 refueling outage at Salem Unit 1 in spring 2010 of degraded buried piping in the auxiliary feedwater system.

FeeCategory: Educational

MediaType:

FeeCategory_Description:

Expedite_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite_UrgencyToInformText:

Waiver_Purpose: UCS seeks the requested information to better understand this event relative to the NRC's license renewal process for inaccessible piping and components. During recent public meetings, the NRC staff

has contended that the risks of damaging buried piping might be greater than the risks from uninspected buried piping. This event involves both excavation of buried piping and piping degraded below allowable levels requiring its replacement. UCS intends to review the requested information so as to better understand the risk/reward applied to inspection of inaccessible piping.

Waiver_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: UCS issued a brief following the failure of buried ESW piping at the Byron nuclear plant in October 2007. We will review the requested information to determine if an update to that report, or a new report, is warranted.

Waiver_SpecificActivityQuals: NRC inspection report 05000272/2010003 dated August 10, 2010, describes the Salem Unit 1 discovery in roughly two pages. The requested information is sought to flesh out these sketchy details. For example, it's not clear from the NRC report how the buried piping is routed, why PSEG elected to excavate the buried piping, and how PSEG justified waiting two more years to look at the very similar piping on Unit 2. UCS intends to review the requested information to answer these and related questions. Very little information, other than the NRC inspection report and an even sketchier PSEG ISI report, are publicly available. The public will gain ready access to all records released by NRC to UCS in response to this FOIA, plus any commentary UCS issues following our review of the records.

Waiver_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: As suggested by the response to question 3 above, very little information on this discovery is publicly available. In the past few weeks, the NRC has conducted at least two public meetings with industry representatives and members of the public on proposed revisions to its license renewal process regarding underground/buried piping. This Salem event was not discussed much, if at all, during these meetings. UCS believes this Salem discovery to be very relevant to the issue and believes public release of the requested information will enable all stakeholders to become better informed and to make better decisions on how aging management of underground/buried piping should proceed.

Waiver_NatureOfPublic: Underground/buried piping issues are big topics of discussion in Vermont, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts this year. Public citizens, local elected officials, and state officials have all been engaged in the discussions. Their efforts will likely be enhanced by the requested information.

Waiver_MeansOfDissemination: First, since UCS is a non-profit, public-interest organization, the NRC places records provided to us in response to this FOIA request in public ADAMS. This allows any one and every one who can access ADAMS to view this important information. Second, UCS will likely prepare a report or issue brief based on the Salem discovery from our review of the requested information. Our products are posted online at www.ucsusa.org and available for viewing/downloading at no cost by members and non-members of UCS.

Waiver_FreeToPublicOrFee: No charge for the information.

Waiver_PrivateCommercialInterest: None.
