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Joosten, Sandy

From: Tom Gurdziel <tgurdziel@twcny.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 9:33 PM
To: CHAIRMAN Resource
Cc: jicc; Uldis Vanags; Bridget Frymire; thenry; OPA4 Resource; ESTRONSKI@aol.com
Subject: SONGS, Unit 2 Remaining Life Estimate
Attachments: CPUC 6.docx

Good morning,

I hope to mail this letter next week.

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel

9 Twin Orchard Drive
Oswego, NY 13126
May 30, 2013

President Michael R. Peevey
Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Michael R. Peevey:

Saving Time

I believe the possibility exists that some time may be saved related to determining the fitness for continued operation of SONGS Unit 2. Presently we feel the need to run Unit 2 for 5 months at 70% power to begin to determine its remaining operating life. (I have been in favor of this concept.) However, a thought came to mind just a day or two ago that we may already have the information we need, if we have three full sets of eddy current information on the Unit 2 replacement steam generators. I think that information exists.

I believe that I have read that eddy current tests were done on the Unit 2 replacement steam generators in Kobe, Japan. I think that eddy current tests were done sometime after arrival in the US and before installation at the plant. And, I think I have read that tests were done after approximately 2 years of operation at 100% (?) power.

So, here would be the plan. Hire a knowledgeable consultant to see if most of the damage occurred during shipping by comparing the results of the first two inspections. I suspect that this may be the case. If it is, it may be possible to calculate the reasonably remaining life of the Unit 2 replacement steam generators by comparing differences between the second and third eddy current results. If it turns out that the differences are relatively minor, probably they have a good bit of life left in them, even as they are today.

And if it turns out that they have been badly damaged by operation, we would probably know that a lot faster than waiting for NRC hearings, then, maybe, approval to run for 5 months, then endless study.

INPO

As I understand it, the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations was formed after the Three Mile Island accident to improve the reputation of the commercial nuclear industry by privately “encouraging” improvement out of the public eye before there was a need for the public monetary fines the NRC was using at the time. They, (INPO), may be a valuable, if confidential, source of information to you.

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel
Member, ASME

Copy:

Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval
Commissioner Mark J. Ferron
Commissioner Mike Florio
Commissioner Carla J. Peterman