

7/26/79

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

Docket No. 50-272

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Mr. H. J. Rockwell, Jr.
516 Littlecroft Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082

Dear Mr. Rockwell:

I am responding to your request for additional information related to a recent event at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station as reported in the June 29, 1979 issue of The Bulletin. This article described the detection of high radioactive material in a water line that is normally only slightly radioactive.

The radioactive source that was detected on June 27 has been identified as ion-exchange resin particles that were displaced from a resin bed that is used to decontaminate water in the spent fuel storage pool of Unit 1. Through a pathway that has not been completely established, some resin particles spread throughout approximately 20 feet of a pipe that runs through the auxiliary building to the Refueling Water Storage Tank. During the week of July 16 plant personnel initiated a procedure to force the radioactive material from the pipe into a trap by means of an air jet. As of July 18 the licensee, PSE&G, reported that the radiation level has decreased by 50 percent through this technique and the clean up is continuing.

I hope that this information explains this event to your satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Darrell G. Eisenhut
Darrell G. Eisenhut, Acting Director
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

K.T.B.

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