

## CHAIRMAN Resource

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**From:** Tom Gurdziel <tgurdziel@twcny.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2018 8:56 PM  
**To:** Transformation Resource  
**Cc:** 'Ed Stronski'; Bridget Frymire; Baval, Rochelle; CHAIRMAN Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] NRC 2018 Transformation Thoughts #2

Good morning,

Run all site-assigned Resident Inspectors and Senior Resident Inspectors out of one location but not out of a Regional office. My preference would be Chattanooga where you have (or did have) an already established training center. This should significantly reduce complaints that inspection is uneven from region to region. More importantly to me, it might provide reduced regional inertia on identifying problems that have previously been missed or overlooked. Let me give you one example.

A long time ago the FirstEnergy/Davis-Besse plant suffered from a problem that, actually, was thought to not happen. Any boric acid (reactor coolant) that leaked from the Control Rod Drive Mechanisms located above the upper reactor head would certainly sizzle on the hot reactor head and leave a hard, white, popcorn-like residue. That was the accepted theory. However, what actually happened was that leakage collected below in (initially) tiny crevices, remained in a liquid state, and vigorously attacked the steel sheltering it. Eventually the true failure mechanism was discovered and, as part of the solution, it was decided to install a leakage monitoring system that had been developed (and I believe) put into use overseas.

To summarize, leakage occurred from above the upper reactor head and boric acid remained in a liquid state in those crevices where it could not drain from. I was shocked to learn that the leakage monitoring system, despite significant NRC attention to this problem, was allowed to be installed on the LOWER reactor head (where the problem would not occur).

Over time, I believe nobody has noticed this discrepancy and gotten it fixed.

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel



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