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MEMORANDUM FOR: Ernst Volgenau, Director, IE
FROM: Harold D. Thornburg, Director, Division of Reactor
Construction Inspection, IE
SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT NONDESTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION STUDY REPORT

Enclosed for your information is our final report pertaining to the Independent Nondestructive Examination Study. The report was prepared by Mr. W. Laudan of my staff who was the program coordinator for this study. Region I and II representatives assisted in contractor surveillance and test result evaluations at 3 Mile Island #2 and Watts Bar #1 and 2 sites respectively.

This study was performed to determine the feasibility of NRC:IE conducting independent examinations of pressure retaining components and piping by performance of volumetric and surface nondestructive examinations.

From the results of this study we recommend that ultrasonic testing, magnetic particle examination and liquid penetrant surface examinations be continued utilizing an NRC-IE-NDE task force. It is recommended that radiography be continued on a periodic basis through the use of outside contractors.

At this time we recommend proceeding with the development of an UT, PT and NT task force on a small scale possible under the jurisdiction of PAT.

Although we have made a good start and have gained pertinent experience pertaining to licensees responses, timing of examinations, code applications, record quality and the logistics of manipulating NDE equipment, we recommend proceeding on a small experimental scale utilizing flexible procedures that can be modified to meet our needs as they become more precisely defined.

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Ernst Volgenau

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We would be happy to discuss this subject in more detail at your convenience.

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Harold D. Thornburg
Director
Division of Reactor
Construction Inspection, IE

Enclosure: NDE Study Report

- cc: J. G. Davis
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- E. M. Howard
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- B. H. Grier
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