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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Palladino

Commissioner Gilinsky Commissioner Ahearne Commissioner Roberts Commissioner Asselstine

FROM:

William J. Dircks

Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT:

NRC EVALUATION OF ZIMMER HARDWARE

Enclosed is the Zimmer NRC Evaluation Team (NET) report (NUREG-0969) which contains the details, conclusions, and recommendations of the NET on-site hardware evaluation conducted from January 24 through March 4, 1983. The report contains both positive and negative conclusions about the quality of hardware at Zimmer.

The NET evaluation confirmed many previous NRC findings related to quality assurance of hardware in veral areas at Zimmer. The licensee's Quality Confirmation Program (QCP) to identify and correct QA problems within many areas, to the extent detailed in NUREG-0969, has been effective in upgrading the quality of many areas of the Zimmer plant.

The NET identified additional concerns, some of which are significant, about the quality of specific Zimmer hardware which is not covered by the licensee's QCP. These are the result of multidisciplined reviews more extensive than the normal NRC inspection scope using independent measurements and destructive examinations. It is the view of the NET that these significant concerns can be adequately resolved by the licensee through the expansion of the existing QCP and the implementation of additional inspections, engineering evaluations, or plant modifications.

The NET report will be used by the Regional Administrator as one of his inputs in approving the licensee's plan to verify the quality of construction at the Zimmer facility as specified in section IVB(2)(a) of the November 12, 1982 Order (CLI-82-33).

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure: NUREG-0969

cc: Distribution w/o encl.:

OPE Dircks Keppler, RIII Roe
OGC EDO R/F Denton Rehm
SECY DeYoung GCunningham Stello

JS Dezek

*For previous concurrences

see attached ORC

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The NET evaluation confirmed some previous NRC findings related to quality assurance of hardware in several areas at Zimmer. The applicant had instituted a Quality Confirmation Program (QCP) to identify and correct QA problems within these areas and the NET evaluation, to the extent detailed in NUREG-0969, found that the QCP has been effective in upgrading the quality of the Zimmer plant.

The NET identified additional concerns, some of which are significant, about the quality of specific Zimmer hardware which is not covered by the applicant's QCP. These are the result of using independent measurements to evaluate hardware attributes which is not a normal NRC, inspection program technique. It is the view of the NET that these significant concerns can be adequately resolved by the applicant through the expansion of the existing QCP and the implementation of additional inspections, engineering evaluations, or plant modifications.

William J. Director for Operations

Enclosure: NUREG-0969

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