



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20585

MAY 21 1979

PDR

Docket No. 50-201

Mrs. Madelyn Grant Brown
4357 W. Summit Street
Lakewood, New York 14750

Dear Mrs. Brown:

Last January you wrote me a letter with several questions and suggestions concerning the defect in the "saucer" or pan under the high level liquid waste tank at the Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc (NFS) reprocessing plant in West Valley, New York. I appreciate your interest and suggestions, and I am enclosing copies of two documents which should provide you with additional information on the status of efforts to investigate the cause and nature of the defect in the pan.

The first of these documents, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff memorandum from C. J. Haughney to me dated January 23, 1979, includes a description of the tests that determined the presence of the defect in the pan under waste tank 8D-2. In your letter, you referred to a drawing of the waste tank system on page 3-30 of the Department of Energy's Companion Report to their Western New York Nuclear Service Center Study (TID-28905-3). In the upper left corner of this drawing is a piece labeled moisture test tube, which is the tube through which the test water was added. For a more complete description of the testing program, please refer to the memorandum described above.

The second enclosed document, an NRC memorandum dated March 29, 1979, is the staff's evaluation of the safety associated with the defect in the pan. This safety evaluation describes the status of the ongoing efforts to determine the cause, size and location of the defect. Repairs to the defect may or may not be feasible, but any repairs could be considered or attempted only after a determination of the location and nature of the defect has been made.

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Mrs. Madelyn Grant Brown

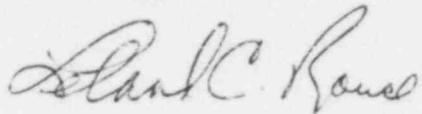
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In your letter, you asked questions concerning the temperature and pressure of the region surrounding the defect. The temperature is approximately 180° F, and the pressure is atmospheric.

I would like to again thank you for your interest and suggestions expressed in your letter. I hope that this response is helpful and informative. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Leland C. Rouse, Acting Chief
Fuel Reprocessing and Recycle Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety

Enclosures:

1. Memo to LCRouse frm CJHaughney
dtd 01/23/79
2. Memo to LCRouse frm CJHaughney
dtd 03/29/79

cc: G. K. Dertel, Department of Energy

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