



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JAN 14 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Thomas J. McTiernan, Director
Office of Inspector and Auditor

FROM: Ernst Volgenau, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

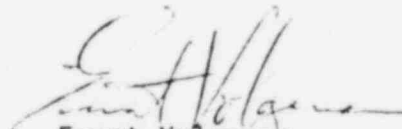
SUBJECT: SURRY UNIT NO. 2 NEUTRON SHIELD TANK

Reference your memorandum on the above subject, dated December 10, 1976. I asked Mr. Moseley, Region II Director, to look into the allegation that a report of bad welds in the neutron shield tank of Surry Unit No. 1 had been removed from an inspection report prepared by Mr. Joseph Varela. I also asked Mr. Grier of the IE Headquarters staff to analyze the safety significance of possible bad welds in the neutron shield. The comments of Mr. Moseley and Mr. Grier are attached.

Mr. Moseley points out that Mr. Varela did detect deficiencies, principally related to surface roughness, in some of the welds and to discontinuities in one weld seam. This problem was addressed by at least two other inspectors -- first Mr. Crossman and then Mr. Swan. Mr. Moseley also indicates that Mr. Swan closed out the issue in October 1970 at which time he had no concern for the safety of operations using the tank as fabricated.

The analysis performed by Mr. Grier's office indicates that even if defective welding exists in the neutron shield tank, there would be minimal impact on public health and safety.

We shall be happy to provide further assistance in the event that you decide to pursue this matter.


Ernst Volgenau
Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

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