

January 14, 1977

Note for Gene Abston:

I reviewed proposed draft of IE letter re: Surry Unit 2 neutron shield in light of allegations made by [redacted] in Region IV.

First and foremost the question of public health and safety. Based upon review by the Reactor Technical Assistance Branch IE and reviewed and concurred by NRR, they conclude that the possible existence of defective welding in the Surry neutron shield tank(s) has virtually no real safety significance.

Apparently there was a history of welding deficiencies found during construction at Surry. This led to increased attention to welding practices and augmented inspections in these areas. The Region II inspection reports brought out some of the welding problems with the neutron shield at Surry.

The only way we (OIA) can be sure that the welds that [redacted] alleged to be bad were or were not covered in the inspection reports (attached to Volgenau's letter) would be to locate [redacted] and interview [redacted] regarding [redacted]'s allegation.

Also, reference last paragraph of Moseley's letter to Volgenau. He stated that the report does not concisely close the welding question, however, [redacted] verbally informed Moseley on December 27, 1976, (six years after the inspection) that it was closed at that time and that he then (October 1976) had no concern for the safety of operations using the tank as fabricated.

Art Schnebelen

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