



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

March 2, 1990

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am responding to your letter of January 30, 1990, in which you requested information about the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station (QCNPS) to respond to Mr. John T. Shaff's letter to you of September 2, 1989.

In previous correspondence, Mr. Shaff has expressed to us his general concerns about the containment and evacuation plans at QCNPS. Specifically with respect to the QCNPS containment, Mr. Shaff has inquired into the ability of the General Electric designed Mark I Containment System to cope with and mitigate very low probability severe accident scenarios which we term as "beyond design basis" events. The NRC staff completed a comprehensive Mark I Containment Performance Improvement Program and made certain recommendations to the Commission in a report numbered SECY 89-017 dated January 23, 1989. On July 11, 1989, the Commission directed the staff to proceed with the implementation of certain of the staff's recommendations in accordance with internal NRC procedures governing backfitting. Specifically, the staff was directed to review and approve the immediate installation of a hardened vent by any Mark I licensee who voluntarily chooses to do so. Additionally, the staff was directed to perform plant-specific backfit analyses for each Mark I plant to evaluate the efficacy of imposing an NRC requirement to install hardened vents. Furthermore, the staff was advised to provide all Mark I owners with information on other containment performance improvements in SECY 89-017 for consideration in their Individual Plant Examination Programs.

With regard to Mr. Shaff's particular interest in hardened vents, the licensee for Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, and the licensees for fifteen other facilities have notified us of their intention to install a hardened vent on their own initiative. Millstone 1 has withdrawn its commitment to install a hardened vent. Thus, there are five Mark I facilities with no commitment by their licensees to install a hardened vent. The NRC staff is performing a plant-specific backfit analysis for each of these five facilities.

A handwritten signature, possibly "R. A. D.", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

In addition, members of my staff have discussed directly with Mr. Shaff his concerns about Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station and intend to meet with Mr. Shaff at the Quad Cities site to discuss any additional concerns he may have regarding this issue.

I trust that the information in this letter will assist you in preparing your response to Mr. Shaff.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By  
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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FROM: DUE: 02/21/90 EDO CONTROL: 0005129  
DOC DT: 01/30/90  
FINAL REPLY:  
Sen. Charles E. Grassley

TO:

CA

FOR SIGNATURE OF: \*\* GRN \*\* CRC NO: 90-0117  
Executive Director

DESC: ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM JOHN T. SHAFF CONCERNING  
QUAD CITIES NUCLEAR PLANT

DATE: 02/08/90

ASSIGNED TO: NRR CONTACT: Murley

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:  
MARK ENVELOPE ATTN: PAUL M. COLLISON.  
REF. EDO 4642, 4647 & 4724.

ACB



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PAPER NUMBER: CRC-90-0117                      LOGGING DATE: Feb 6 90

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Charles Grassley--Const R  
AFFILIATION: UNITED STATES SENATE

LETTER DATE: Jan 30 90              FILE CODE: ID&R-5 Quad Cities

SUBJECT: Evacuationfor residents around the Quad Cities  
          nuclear station

ACTION: Direct Reply

DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack, DSB

SPECIAL HANDLING: None

NOTES: John Shaff

DATE DUE: Feb <sup>23</sup>~~20~~ 90

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