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Stop Chernobyl Here

March 25, 1990

Victor Nerses, Project Manager
Project Directorate, I-3
DIVISION OF REACTOR PROJECTS I/11
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: Docket No. 50-443

Dear Mr. Nerses:

Thank you for the phone call last Friday morning concerning your receipt of and progress in answering my letter to you, re: questions about NRC's review of numerous requests for relief by the Public Service of New Hampshire from full compliance with Seabrook Station Unit 1's First Ten-Year In-Service Inspection requirements -- welding throughout the plant.

This letter is partly to acknowledge your kind offer to get back to me soon to answer my questions, perhaps by conference call from your staff. I am sure you understand that I also need and expect a timely written response to the questions in my letter, over the signature of the appropriate NRC official. At your option, any conference call can be preliminary to such response or a followup to expand on any answers sent to me by letter.

The second reason for this letter is to ask the following questions which are related to my first letter, dated February 27, 1990:

- 1) What is the total number of welds at Seabrook Station Unit 1?
- 2) Is this the total number of welds that would be subject to inspection if no requests for relief has been asked for by PSNH? If not, what is that number, and what is the reason for the difference?
- 3) What is the total number of welds that PSNH is requesting relief from inspecting?
- 4) How do each of the answers in the above break down by a) welds which are considered safety related and b) those which are not considered safety related?
- 5) How are these further broken down by systems within Unit 1, using the same terminology used in the 10-Year In-Service Inspection document, viz., Reactor Pressure Vessel, Pressurizer, Steam Generator, Class 1 Piping, Class 2 Residual Heat Removal Piping, etc., etc.?

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Perhaps the following table will facilitate answering these questions:

TABLE OF WELDS IN SEABROOK STATION UNIT 1: TOTAL WELDS, WELDS REQUIRING INSPECTION IN THE 10-YEAR PLAN, AND WELDS FOR WHICH PSNH IS REQUESTING RELIEF FROM INSPECTION

Weld Locations:	-----Safety-Related-----			-----Non-Safety-----			-----Totals-----		
	<u>Total # Welds</u>	<u># Welds in Plan</u>	<u># for which PSNH wants relief</u>	<u>Total # Welds</u>	<u># Welds in Plan</u>	<u># for which PSNH wants relief</u>	<u>Total # Welds</u>	<u>Total # in Plan</u>	<u># Welds PSNH Wants Relief</u>
Reactor Pressure Vessel									
Pressurizer									
Steam Generator									
Class 1 Piping									
Class 2 Residual Heat Removal Piping									
Other _____									
Other _____									
Other _____									
Rest of Plant									
GRAND TOTALS:									

Answers to these questions are requested because a) the circulated original document only indicates percentages of welds for which the utility has requested relief, not the actual number of welds involved. Percentages also make it difficult to estimate the workload from which PSNH desires to be relieved, which is important in assessing practicality/impracticality, and b) it appears to me that there is either little shared understanding of which systems, components, welds, etc. are safety-related vs. non-safety related

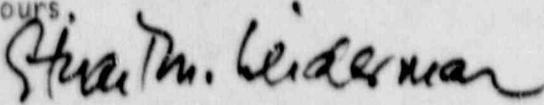
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or there is a rolling definition in use which is thoroughly confusing. For example, last week when a power supply to Unit 1's control rod drive mechanism failed, resulting in a 5½-hour shutdown, a Seabrook spokesman stated that the problem was not safety related. However, even a layperson knows that the control rod drive mechanism is part of a, if not the, primary safety system in nuclear plants and essential to keep the chain reaction within design limits.

As in my original letter, answers to these questions will help me complete comments I plan to submit concerning PSNH requests for relief from requirements in its Seabrook Unit 1 10-Year In-Service Inspection Program.

Again, thank you for your call and timely response.

Yours,



Stuart M. Leiderman

enclosed: Letter of February 27, 1990