

QUESTION 9. After NRC staff learned of Mr. Wampler's findings concerning the radiographs, what inspections or other reviews were conducted by the NRC to determine whether Mr. Wampler's findings were valid?

ANSWER.

The answers to Questions 3 and 6 describe the NRC staff's earlier reviews in respect to issues raised by Mr. Wampler. Following Congressional staff inquiry, the NRC conducted a further review which is described in the memorandum from NRC Region 1 dated February 28, 1990. The NRC has reviewed the welding and nondestructive examination programs throughout the period of construction. For example, in May 1984, the NRC performed a headquarters-led Construction Assessment Team (CAT) inspection (50-443/84-07) of the Seabrook construction program, which included a review of Pullman-Higgins radiography. The CAT inspection reviewed over 1900 Pullman-Higgins radiographic films and, with minor exception, found their welding and radiography programs acceptable.

Inspection Report 50-443/86-52 provides an overview of the NRC's inspection program of the Seabrook Station and lists examples of the numerous inspections of welding and the nondestructive testing program. The NRC also performed independent radiography of piping welds utilizing its Mobile Nondestructive Examination Laboratory and compared our radiographs to the licensee's file film to verify the adequacy of their program. Additionally, random weld radiographs were selected by the Construction Assessment Team, the Mobile Nondestructive Examination Team, and welding specialist inspectors for review for compliance

with the ASME Code requirements. The NRC has independently reviewed in excess of 2500 radiographs. This number does not include the films reviewed by individual specialist and resident inspectors during the performance of the routine inspection program.

The licensee performed a 100% review of the safety related radiographs to ensure code compliance. Under the ASME Code program, all required weld examinations and documentation must be completed prior to the code inspector (Authorized Nuclear Inspector) approving the completion of the piping system for code purposes. Any deficiencies must be resolved and each weld must be accounted for in the system. Any radiographs that were missing or anomalies in the documentation would be detected and corrective actions initiated. This amounts to three levels or more of radiographic film review: the Pullman-Higgins review, the licensee's review, and the Authorized Nuclear Inspector's review.

Lastly, Mr. Wampler did not allege, in the information the NRC has previously received, that there was ever a weld quality problem or a deficiency in the final radiographs. He stated his opinion that the reject rate was excessive. The NRC was aware of the weld reject rate and was following the issue. Nowhere in the Department of Labor hearing testimony taken on March 19-20, 1984, did he state that he was coerced into doing anything wrong, or that he was aware of safety violations other than crossing radiation barriers established to protect personnel safety during radiography shoots.