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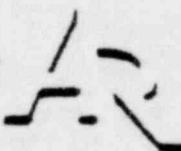
ORIGINAL

COMMISSION MEETING

In the Matter of: PUBLIC MEETING

DISCUSSION OF REPORT ON TASK FORCE ON
EVALUATION OF GINNA EVENT

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

3
4 DISCUSSION OF REPORT OF TASK FORCE ON
5 EVALUATION OF GINNA EVENT

6
7 PUBLIC MEETING

8
9 Nuclear Regulatory Commission
10 1130 H Street, N. W.
11 1717 H Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

12 Wednesday, April 14, 1982

13 The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at

14 2:00 p.m.

15 BEFORE:

16 NUNZIO PALLADINO, Chairman of the Commission
17 VICTOR GILINSKY, Commissioner
JOHN AHEARNE, Commissioner
THOMAS ROBERTS, Commissioner

18 STAFF MEMBERS GIVING PRESENTATIONS AT MEETING:

19 S. CHILK
F. REMICK
20 S. TRUBATCH
W. DIRCKS
21 H. DENTON
T. MARTIN
22 R. HAYNES
G. HOLAHAN
23 S. REYNOLDS
J. NEHEMIAS
24 J. WIGGINS
R. ZIMMERMAN

25 * * *

DISCLAIMER

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: The meeting will please
3 come to order.

4 The Commission meets this afternoon to hear a
5 briefing on the NRC report for the January 25, 1982,
6 steam generator tube rupture at R. E. Ginna nuclear
7 power plant.

8 The report is the product of an NRC task force
9 composed of representatives of the Office of Nuclear
10 Reactor Regulation, the Office of Inspection and
11 Enforcement, the Office of Analysis and Evaluation of
12 Operational Data and the Regional Offices of Region I
13 and Region III.

14 The licensee was not provided an opportunity
15 to review or recommend changes to the report but
16 cooperated fully with the task force effort and provided
17 information as requested.

18 The report documents the circumstances
19 surrounding the January 25th steam generator tube
20 rupture event at the Ginna plant. It focuses on the
21 period from 9:25 a.m. of January 25 when the tube
22 rupture occurred to 10:45 a.m. on January 26 when the
23 plant entered the recovery phase.

24 The report is intended to describe factual
25 information and significant findings associated with the

1 event and thereby provide the required information for
2 detailed analysis and recommendations by the various NRC
3 offices. This latter effort and the resulting
4 dissemination of information will ensure that NRC and
5 the nuclear industry continue to profit from operating
6 an accident experience.

7 Unless my fellow Commissioners have any other
8 opening remarks they would like to make, I suggest
9 turning the meeting over to Mr. Dircks.

10 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I have a question I
11 would like to ask Mr. Dircks.

12 Bill, is this report the response to the
13 Chairman's request of task force for the evaluation of
14 January 29th?

15 MR. DIRCKS: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: What the Chairman had
17 asked for is an interim report to the Commission with
18 findings, conclusions and recommendations. I had
19 difficulty coming across the conclusions and
20 recommendations. I don't think they are there.

21 MR. DIRCKS: Let me talk about that right
22 away. This is in response to the Chairman's memo of
23 January 29th. I talked to Ron Haynes on February 1st
24 and give him a go-ahead on the thing. In the meantime
25 we had several other activities underway, the

1 longer-term look at steam generators by the Steam
2 Generator Task Force and the review of those problems in
3 that area.

4 What the task force has done was to do as
5 complete a factual summary of the event at Ginna as
6 possible. The offices have reviewed the factual summary
7 thus far and they have no immediate recommendations for
8 immediate action.

9 The next step in this phase is for the offices
10 to go through a more in-depth look at this report and
11 see if there are any longer-term actions to be taken.
12 In addition to that, what we want to do is turn the
13 report over to the Steam Generator Task Force and for
14 them to review it from their perspective.

15 Another point that Harold wants to do is to
16 distribute the report widely to all the licensees to
17 take a look at the operator actions involved.

18 So there are no immediate recommendations in
19 here. The longer-term recommendations will follow as
20 each office goes through the report in a very in-depth
21 manner.

22 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But I guess what you
23 are saying is that a conclusion is that there is no
24 immediate action that you can see being needed and so
25 the recommendation is to support that conclusion to take

1 no immediate action and then to turn this report, as you
2 say, over to the longer-term effort.

3 MR. DIRCKS: Yes.

4 Those are the only points in response to your
5 question that I wanted to make. It is a factual
6 summary. There is no need to take any immediate
7 actions. If there were, we would have made those
8 recommendations even before you got the report today.

9 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: This is a factual report
10 of just the period that I described?

11 MR. DIRCKS: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: It does not go into the
13 facts that were obtained as a result of later
14 inspections and therefore doesn't include metallurgical
15 information and the like.

16 MR. HAYNES: We do cover some post-event work
17 there and we do have some photographs of where we stand
18 at this time on the metallurgic aspects.

19 MR. DIRCKS: There is certainly information in
20 here that the Steam Generator Task Force should be
21 reviewing during the course of their deliberations.

22 Ron.

23 MR. HAYNES: May I just lead off. Mr.
24 Chairman and Commissioners ---

25 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: For the benefit of the

1 public it might be well just to identify yourselves
2 since we didn't introduce all the people at the table.

3 MR. HAYNES: My name is Ronald Haynes and I am
4 the Regional Administrator at the Philadelphia Office of
5 the NRC called Region I.

6 On last January 28th I provided a preliminary
7 briefing to you about the Ginna steam generator tube
8 rupture event which occurred on January 25th. I had
9 just then returned from the Ginna site and my report to
10 you was necessarily brief and limited to a broad look at
11 the major operational and radiological events which had
12 occurred.

13 On January 29th, Mr. Chairman, that you spoke
14 to earlier, you directed Mr. Dircks to establish a task
15 force to review and evaluate the Ginna event. On
16 February 1st Mr. Dircks discussed this assignment with
17 me and then later he confirmed our discussion in a
18 memorandum of February 5th which appointed me to
19 organize and direct this effort.

20 Now to carry out this assignment I functioned
21 as chairman of a five-person steering group comprised of
22 senior managers from the Offices of NRR, OIE, AEOD and
23 Region I. On February 4th the steering group met for
24 the first time in Bethesda and documented a charter for
25 the task group effort. This charter delineated the

1 scope of the work, as you described previously, Mr.
2 Chairman, and a preliminary outline of the report was
3 then developed to document it.

4 The effort was really to obtain and report the
5 relevant facts of what occurred during this period
6 between 9:25 on the 25th and about 10:45 on January
7 26th, plus bring in some post-event activities that took
8 place that were of interest, particularly with respect
9 to the steam generator, and what was found at that time
10 with what happened to the tube and the cause of the
11 leakage as best could be determined. What we wanted to
12 do with this report was then to be able to provide a
13 data base, if you can, for detailed analyses and
14 consideration by the other offices in the NRC.

15 On February 8th with advice and concurrence of
16 the steering group I appointed Mr. Tim Martin as the
17 leader of the task force and detailed him full time to
18 the assignment. Mr. Martin is a Senior Manager in
19 Region I. He is Director in charge of Division of
20 Engineering and Technical Programs.

21 He was on leave in Hawaii during the event
22 when it occurred and so the task force was his first
23 involvement with this incident. He came on that Monday
24 and got the assignment.

25 (Laughter.)

1 MR. HAYNES: Now during the execution of this
2 assignment the steering group met several times with Mr.
3 Martin and members of the task force and provided
4 guidance.

5 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Jim, he really didn't
6 have to throw that in, did he?

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. HAYNES: They provided the guidance as
9 requested and this report which we have here, NUREG
10 0909, also includes information and input from the
11 Federal Emergency Management Agency.

12 As you know, we did this to be able to obtain
13 a fuller understanding of the governmental response to
14 the event. As you know, FEMA did respond to the site on
15 January 25th and worked with us to the 26th, and I am
16 happy to say that their cooperation has continued
17 throughout this period on the work of the task force in
18 developing the information.

19 Now if I can at this time, I would like to
20 turn over the major part of the presentation to Mr.
21 Martin. As most of you know, Tim is well known an
22 experienced leader in investigating technical events at
23 operating nuclear power plants. He performed a key role
24 at several investigations associated with the Three Mile
25 Island II accident as well as the Indian Point II

1 flooding event and as well as security problems we h
2 out at the Beaver Valley facility.

3 Tim, if you will.

4 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, my
5 name is Tim Martin. I am the Director of the Division
6 of Engineering and Technical Programs in Region I. I
7 received this assignment on a Sunday back in February.

8 I met with the steering group and received my
9 charter on the following Monday, and I want to reiterate
10 that we were to document the facts and findings of
11 facts. We were not to make recommendations and we were
12 not to come to conclusions. This was to be a mother
13 document, a document to be provided to other offices who
14 would do more detailed review, evaluation and ultimately
15 to develop recommendations. That was the charter we
16 operated under.

17 I will take exception to one thing relative to
18 the steam generator tube documentation in the document.
19 Obviously all the examination of events was done
20 post-event and all the things that are reported in there
21 reflect back to that period. The tube did rupture
22 during the period we were chartered to look at and
23 therefore we provided the best information we had about
24 the tube rupture that occurred during that event. So
25 the document basically reflects that period.

1 Now the Section 7 in the document does reflect
2 some post-event activities, but they are necessary to
3 put the earlier event into perspective and they were
4 therefore provided for that reason.

5 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Tim, since you do end
6 up discussing some of the examination of the tube, this
7 is information current as of?

8 MR. MARTIN: I have to turn to Sam Reynolds.

9 Mr. REYNOLDS: As of three weeks ago.

10 MR. MARTIN: The NUREG was put together by a
11 task force of 13 principal authors and I want to in a
12 spirit of regionalization let you know that we had four
13 representatives from NRR, we had one from AEOD, we had
14 three from I&E, we had two from Region III and three
15 from Region I.

16 We were also assisted by FEMA, by our
17 contactor, Battelle Northwest, by the Jet Propulsion
18 Laboratory and their computer enhancement of our video,
19 and also we had abundant assistance from all the offices
20 represented by the members who provided us calculations,
21 analyses, reviews and recommendations. It was a team
22 effort of all NRC and we are very appreciative of the
23 cooperation we got.

24 We also had three excellent technical editors
25 provided by Mr. Besaw's shop who worked some damn long

1 hours and they really deserve a lot of credit.

2 The information that you see in this document
3 was generated as a result of a two-week visit to the
4 site. We made observations, we performed some tests, we
5 made some measurements, we conducted interviews, we
6 analyzed data, we monitored audio tape generated both by
7 the licensee and by us, we took video tape that was
8 generated by the licensee and subjected it to computer
9 enhancement, we took some procedures and walked through
10 them to see what the problems might be with them and we
11 reviewed a lot of documents.

12 Basically the first two weeks was spent on
13 site to gather the data which was then brought back to
14 the offices to do the analysis.

15 The final document was ready on the 8th of
16 April. At that time I send it to the printers. I sent
17 it to the various NRC staffs who would need to review it
18 in preparation for this briefing today and I sent it to
19 the licensee and the vendor. That was the first time
20 they saw it. It was sent to them with a cover letter
21 saying this is for proprietary review only. We did not
22 solicit any further review. In fact, it was being
23 printed as they were reviewing it.

24 We got our release on Monday the 12th for the
25 proprietary purposes. The Ginna plant did coordinate

1 the vendor review and report to us. The safeguard
2 release was done by our Nuclear Material Safety and
3 Safeguards Office and we got that about the same time.

4 So at this time the green document is ready
5 for release. There are minor differences between the
6 yellow document and the green document. Section 572, we
7 noted an error on Friday. I think it was about the
8 9th. It had to be corrected and it had to be right in
9 the document that was printed. So what you see is a
10 result of my staff pointing out a problem and we got
11 that fixed. There are also some typos that are
12 corrected. So that is the major difference.

13 With that lead in I would like to start with
14 slide one.

15 (Slide presentation.)

16 The first two slides are really for the
17 purpose of giving you a lay of the land and pointing out
18 the equipment which is a problem. The reactor vessel is
19 near the center toward the bottom. The things to point
20 out in the reactor vessel are the thermocouples that
21 were located at the exit of the core and in the upper
22 head were of extreme value to the operators.

23 Coming out through the hot leg on the B side,
24 and the B side has the faulted steam generator, we have
25 the let-down line to the CVCS system, the chemical

1 volume and control system. This was the major source of
2 water that ultimately caused the rupture of the
3 pressurizer relief tank disk.

4 Working my way around the reactor coolant pump
5 and then the injection point for the charging flow from
6 the CVCS, this injection point along with the safety
7 injection, which really come in almost on top of each
8 other, are the major source of cool water into the B
9 loop and we will address that later when we talk about
10 how we tried to resolve what kind of thermal transient
11 that the reactor vessel saw.

12 This plant has one peculiarity. There are no
13 TH or hot-leg indications inside the control room. They
14 do have RTDs located in the hot legs and they do compute
15 a delta T, but they do not bring out hot leg. The fact
16 that that information was not available caused us some
17 confusion over the emergency notification system as we
18 kept asking for the information and they didn't have it.

19 There is cold-leg information though. The
20 cold-leg RTDs are located almost right on top of the
21 safety injection and charging points. The RDT sticks
22 about one inch into the pipe. This is a 27 and a half
23 inch pipe. So you don't get a hell of a lot of good
24 information from it.

25 The temperature dropped very low shortly after

1 natural circulation stopped in the B loop and this was
2 probably caused by the cold water coming in. The safety
3 injection water, by the way, was running at the tank
4 about 69 degrees and we believe that it probably heated
5 up to around 90 degrees from pump heat and from the heat
6 tracing, but still there was very cool water being
7 injected at this point.

8 Coming on around the diagram we have the
9 pressurizer. The pressurizer heater controls tripped
10 the heaters very early in the event as the pressurizer
11 voided. They will not be restarted until after a
12 decision is made to restart the reactor coolant pump and
13 it will be a while before the pressurizer actually gets
14 a bubble back in it.

15 On the pressurizer you will notice there is
16 one pressure transmitter. That is the narrow-range
17 pressure transmitter. It is used for safety circuits
18 for reactor protection and safety injection circuits.
19 It is the only safety related pressure transmitter
20 indicator on this system. I will talk about the other
21 one shortly. It so happens that this one bottoms out at
22 about 1700 pounds. In the majority of the transient and
23 in the majority of the recovery this instrument was on
24 this lower scale. It was the only safety indication of
25 pressure that they had.

1 Coming off the top left of the pressurizer you
2 see a number of valves with motor operated valves in
3 front of them. These are the PCRVs, the power operated
4 relief valves. There are two of them. They have a dual
5 purpose. One for controlling transients that you don't
6 want to challenge your code safeties, and, two, they are
7 used for low-pressure overpressure protection, or low
8 temperature pressure protection.

9 The PCV-430 you see there is the one that did
10 fail. It failed in the open position, and I will talk
11 about it a little bit later. It was due to a failure in
12 the pneumatic system, not the valve itself. The valve
13 functioned probably three times, but on the fourth time
14 started to shut and then reopened by itself and this was
15 a result of the control system malfunction.

16 The motor operated valve, the block valve did
17 function properly. It takes about 40 seconds for it to
18 close. So there was some discharge. Again, I
19 reiterate, it is not the major source of water to the
20 pressurizer relief tank. In fact, the major source is
21 going to be from the let-down system, and I will talk
22 about that in a second.

23 On the line from the power operated relief
24 valve there is a temperature element. The temperature
25 element did indicated elevated temperatures for a

1 significant period of time and caused the operators to
2 suspect that the PORVs were leaking so they shut both
3 block valves. So both the PORVs were isolated very
4 early in the event.

5 Coming on around now, right above the
6 pressurizer relief tank which is in the upper-right-hand
7 side you see the line that leads down to it has letdown
8 relief feed into it and seal return relief. The seal
9 return relief lifted almost immediately after
10 containment isolation because you have cut off charging
11 flow.

12 Your primary system is now bleeding back
13 through the seals. It pressurizes the line to protect
14 the low-pressure piping downstream and the seal relief
15 opens. It is about five GPM max and probably closer to
16 one GPM actually. You can actually watch the level
17 trace on the pressurizer relief tank and you can see it
18 come up, but it is a very small contribution. The major
19 contribution will be the letdown relief and we will talk
20 about that in a little bit.

21 Going on down, the pressurizer relief tank
22 rupture disk did rupture during the event. It dumped
23 approximately 1,320 gallons to the containment sump. I
24 guess that is all I want to say about that.

25 Coming on around now and we are back to the A

1 loop, you see the other pressure instrument located off
2 the hot leg of the A loop. This one is a wide-range
3 instrument, zero to 3,000 pounds. It was used by the
4 operators to determine if they had saturation
5 conditions, it was used by the operators to determine
6 the delta P from the primary system to the steam
7 generator for leak control and it was used by the
8 operators to determine when they could go into the BHR
9 mode so they wouldn't pressurize the low-pressure
10 piping. It was a very important instrument. It is not
11 safety related. Yet, they had to have it and this was
12 the only one they could use.

13 Slide two, please.

14 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Can I ask Mr. Dircks a
15 question. Do we have line diagrams of these of every
16 plant at least in this much detail available?

17 MR. DIRCKS: I don't think we have it in that
18 detail. I think we should.

19 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Yes, I think so because
20 this would help. Thank you.

21 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, one of the things
22 we did note from this event. We expected the
23 Westinghouse plant to have a TH indication. It caused a
24 great deal of confusion as we kept asking for it and
25 they kept not being able to give it to us and we didn't

1 understand why. The ultimately ended up giving us core
2 exit temperatures and that caused further confusion
3 because the core exit was reading less than the cold leg
4 temperatures just because of the calibration problem.

5 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: But now you had a cold
6 leg temperature.

7 MR. MARTIN: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: You had the delta T.

9 MR. MARTIN: We had the delta T. Going back
10 to the TMI experience we knew that calculated values are
11 subject to errors. So we didn't have a great deal of
12 faith in calculated values. We wanted the raw
13 information.

14 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: In other words, the sum
15 of delta T and T cold did not satisfy you.

16 MR. MARTIN: It did not.

17 This next drawing is shown for two purposes.
18 One, to show you where the atmospheric relief paths are
19 and also to point out some things that are going to play
20 a major part in the following discussion.

21 The two steam generators, they feed out.
22 There are pressure instruments located on both the main
23 steam lines. They have an atmospheric relief that is
24 normally set at 1050 pounds. It has a manual block
25 valve. Then there are four code safeties. Three of

1 them are set at 1140 and one is set at 1085. So the
2 atmospheric power operated relief valve on this one is
3 around 1050. Normally you would use it and it would
4 prevent challenging your code safeties. If it fails you
5 have always got the block valve. On the code safeties
6 you don't.

7 We have noted that during this event the
8 operators did isolate the block valve on the faulted
9 steam generator atmospheric PORV. It certainly is not
10 going to stop the pressure from increasing. The code
11 safeties were subsequently challenged. Had they failed,
12 and we believe that they did fail to recede on several
13 instances, there was no way to isolate them. So they
14 removed one line of defense.

15 Release points, obviously to the condenser you
16 have the air ejectors. Any of the code safeties
17 relieving, and one of them did on the B, so that is a
18 release point. The exhaust to atmosphere from the
19 auxiliary feedwater pumps was also a release point. I
20 will show these to you on a diagram later on and how
21 they fit in with the plume.

22 One comment I would like to make on the
23 configuration of the main steam line. The main steam
24 line comes out of the steam generator and rises several
25 feet, turns horizontal, snakes around for a thermal

1 expansion, goes through the containment wall and then
2 dives down 20 or 30 feet, turns horizontal and then all
3 these connections for the safety valves and the PORV and
4 the tap-off for the feedwater pump are located in a
5 horizontal run. Then you have got your main steam
6 isolation valve.

7 This configuration resulted in when we had
8 flooding filling that line. We probably ended up with a
9 gas bubble at the top of the high point and we probably
10 had partitioning of the radionuclides and the volatiles
11 ended up in the gaseous space. You had water now
12 sitting up against your code safeties. So when they
13 ultimately relieved we had water relief versus steam
14 relief which is assumed in the analysis that we do for
15 steam generator tube rupture events.

16 With that lead in, then I would like to go to
17 slide three.

18 We chose, after examining the event, to divide
19 it into nine phases. The nine phases were chosen
20 because during each phase similar things seemed to be
21 going on. The trends of the parameters were somewhere
22 and it seemed to divide into that.

23 Initially we were at steady state. We were
24 operating at 100 percent power and everything was
25 copacetic. There was no, and I repeat, there was no

1 indication, no warning that there was a leakage into the
2 steam generator. The blow-down monitors didn't show
3 anything. The air ejectors didn't show anything. The
4 chemistry didn't show anything.

5 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: And there was no
6 indication of leakage in any previous ---

7 MR. MARTIN: In years past they had had
8 leaking tubes which they had been able to detect.

9 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But there was none for
10 this particular tube?

11 MR. MARTIN: None for this one, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: And you are saying that
13 just prior to this event there was no ---

14 MR. MARTIN: No indication.

15 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Now is there an
16 instrument with a set point at a certain number of
17 gallons per minute that they should have picked
18 something up, or does it alarm at some point?

19 MR. MARTIN: Roy, can you answer that?

20 MR. ZIMMERMAN: The air ejector alarm would
21 probably be the most sensitive. My name is Roy
22 Zimmerman. I am Resident Inspector at Ginna. The air
23 ejector alarm would be an aid along that line. They did
24 have some leakage from B steam generator in their
25 previous cycle but it was a very small leak. There was

1 nothing in this present cycle.

2 COMMISSIONER ARLARNE: There is no instrument
3 that would alert them that there is a leak in the steam
4 generator at some certain number of gallons per minute
5 loss rate?

6 MR. HAYNES: You would do that on a water
7 balance, Commissioner, and there is no direct reading.

8 MR. MARTIN: They are able to monitor for the
9 tech spec limits on leakage using the water chemistry
10 and also the blow-down monitor which is probably a
11 little less sensitive than the air ejector. I can't
12 tell you what the alarm on the air ejector equates to in
13 terms of gallons per minute. Obviously it is strongly
14 dependent upon the activity in the primary system.

15 So Phase I steady state operation.

16 Phase II was the tube rupture and
17 depressurization. The depressurization, it started at
18 9:25. The initial indications were the air ejector
19 alarm. They had a steam flow feed flow mismatch on the
20 steam generators, on the B steam generator
21 specifically. They had a pressurizer level alarm, a
22 low-pressure alarm. They ultimately had at 9:28 a
23 scram. Shortly thereafter there was a safety
24 injection. Shortly thereafter, in fact almost
25 coincidentally, a containment isolation, noting that the

1 safety injection pumps had started, that they were
2 scrambled and pressure was dropping. They tripped the
3 reactor coolant pumps at 9:29. The pressure continued
4 to drop. It dropped below 1200 pounds, probably at 1150
5 or something like that. The safety injection pumps were
6 then taking hold and pumping water in.

7 During the Phase III, which we call the
8 natural circulation repressurization, you can see the
9 effect of the safety injection. You can also see the
10 effect of the cool-down which is occurring in natural
11 circulation on both A and B steam generators because at
12 least in the initial part of this the generators have
13 not been isolated. They are still trying to determine.

14 At 9:33 they have already notified the NRC
15 that there was a steam generator tube rupture event.
16 They choose at this time not to say that it is in the B
17 generator because they are not confident. They know
18 they have had one. They think it is a B but they are
19 doing some further checks. Some of those further checks
20 includes a radiation reading on the main steam lines.
21 It confirms for them that it is the B steam generator.
22 By 9:40 they have isolated the B steam generator.

23 The level continues to rise in the B steam
24 generator and finally goes off scale in another 15 or 20
25 minutes.

1 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What was it that led them
2 to conclude it was the B generator?

3 MR. MARTIN: The initial thing that told them
4 was they got a steam flow feed flow mismatch on that
5 generator, a slight perturbation in level. I think one
6 of the things that probably confused them and didn't
7 make them take immediate action was on the subsequent
8 scram both steam generators observed shrink to about the
9 same level. It was only then the subsequent radiation
10 reading on the main steam lines confirmed for them that
11 it was the B steam generator. So at 9:40 they did shut
12 the main steam isolation valve and that was really the
13 last thing, the isolator on that generator at that
14 time. The taps were all isolated and the auxiliary feed
15 was all isolated and everything else was taken care of.

16 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Do you find disturbing
17 or not much of a problem that it took 15 minutes to
18 reach that conclusion?

19 MR. MARTIN: No, I do not find it disturbing.
20 Quite frankly, I find these operators extremely well
21 trained.

22 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I am not talking about
23 the operators.

24 MR. MARTIN: That it took them 15 minutes?

25 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: That it took them 15

1 minutes.

2 MR. MARTIN: No, I don't think so. If they
3 had bottled the wrong one and then had to bottle the
4 other, you know that would cause them a significant
5 problem. I think they took prudent action.

6 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But in that type of
7 time period you had reached the conclusion that it was
8 which generator ---

9 MR. MARTIN: I am sure for them this went by
10 in about a half a minute.

11 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I am not asking that.

12 MR. MARTIN: I do not find fault.

13 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I recognize that. I
14 have read your report, I have recognized that you have
15 reached the conclusion that the operators did very
16 well. That wasn't my challenge. My question really was
17 do you find that to take 15 minutes to reach that
18 conclusion, do you think that that is an adequate amount
19 of time? Let's say our procedures or the procedures are
20 such that they lead you on every one of these scenarios
21 you go through to conclude it will take 15 minutes. Are
22 you satisfied? Is that a reasonable amount of time?

23 MR. MARTIN: I have no problem with it. I can
24 also point out that the FSAR assumes an hour would be
25 nice but four and a half hours is okay.

1 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Is the 15 minutes
2 dependent on a number of factors? Could it have been
3 longer or shorter?

4 MR. MARTIN: I think if it had been a smaller
5 leak it would have been more difficult to determine.
6 This turns out to be probably your bounding leak. We
7 will talk about it later, but it comes out at about 760
8 gallons per minute initially. If that is not right on
9 the maximum, it is awful close.

10 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What do you mean if that
11 is not right on the maximum? Why couldn't it be more?

12 MR. MARTIN: You would have to shear more
13 tubes. You are basically at the critical flow.

14 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: More tubes is what I was
15 thinking about.

16 MR. MARTIN: I want to point out here that in
17 a review of the data after the event in the quite of our
18 offices we were able to say that there was probably a
19 bubble formed in the top of the reactor vessel during
20 this initial depressurization. We wouldn't expect the
21 operators to spot it. It wasn't there very long.

22 The temperature indications in the upper head
23 show that during the repressurization had there been a
24 bubble formed early it would have gone away very
25 quickly. Because the pressurizer level was dropping

1 like a rock because of the break they would have never
2 been any perturbation in the pressurizer level.

3 Containment isolation was reset at about
4 9:57. They needed that to regain instrument air so they
5 could regain control of valves inside containment and
6 also to gain control of the safety injection system.

7 This initial part, their main thrust is to do
8 a very rapid cool-down to no-load temperatures, around
9 490 degrees, so they then can subsequently
10 depressurize. Unfortunately, natural circulation
11 doesn't give you very good mixing in the upper head and
12 so the temperature up there will remain hot.

13 At approximately 10:07 they had met all the
14 conditions they felt necessary to start
15 depressurization. They are going to use the power
16 operated relief valve on the pressurizer because the
17 reactor coolant pumps had been tripped much earlier. So
18 they don't have that spray available to them.

19 They successfully cycle it three times. Now
20 the reason they have to go through a cycle operation is
21 there is like six or ten feet between the instrument
22 they have got to read and the switch you have got to
23 control. So there is a two-man operation. The guy
24 bumps it, how is that; you know, he bumps it, how is
25 that.

1 After three successful operations they try the
2 fourth one, the valve opens, they go to shut and the
3 valve starts to shut and then reopens by itself.

4 Our investigation subsequently has determined
5 that this probably was related to a restriction that the
6 licensee had put in the exhaust from a solenoid valve
7 which controls the power operated leak valve. The
8 restriction was put on the exhaust port. If you look at
9 the technical manual associated with that solenoid it
10 says do not put a restriction on that because it can
11 lead to malfunction.

12 To get the type of transient that was seen in
13 this valve there had to be some particle or something
14 blown into the restriction. Basically what you have to
15 have is a down-pressure transient followed by a
16 repressurization. The valve did stroke partially
17 closed, then reopened, stayed open for two days and then
18 went shut by itself.

19 They were removing the shield blocks on top of
20 the pressurizer cubicle when it finally went shut and
21 this could have caused vibration which shook it free.
22 But that is pure speculation and I have not got the
23 piece of dirt in my hand to show you.

24 So after the fourth operation, had they been
25 successful and had the valve shut, it probably would

1 have secured safety injection right there. They had met
2 all the requirements. But the with the stuck-open PORV
3 and the block valve traveling shut, they probably had no
4 consideration of stopping the safety injection at that
5 point. Safety injection repressurized the system and
6 now you see we enter into the Phase 5 which is prolonged
7 safety injection.

8 At this point they got a pressurizer which is
9 going full scale and reading off scale high. They know
10 they have a bubble in the top of the reactor vessel.
11 They verified the thermocouple readings in the upper
12 head. They show a saturation condition. The pumps are
13 essentially sitting there on a shut-off head. We have
14 been able to do the calculations from pre-op test data
15 on the pumps and the charging just about matches what we
16 calculate is the flow through the break. I think that
17 came out about 400 gpm.

18 During that period, if you note the B steam
19 generator transient, you will notice that during the
20 power operated relief valve opening you see that the
21 steam generator pressure did drop. There was actually
22 reverse flow through the break during that period.

23 Subsequently you will see two more jogs before
24 the end of the prolonged safety injection. Those were
25 actually reliefs of the code safety on the B steam

1 generator, the lowest set point, the one that is set at
2 1085 pounds.

3 After the first opening you will notice a long
4 period of essentially flat pressure in the B steam
5 generator. We believe this is during a period where you
6 have steam leak out that code safety.

7 The subsequent transient you will see it as a
8 slow build-up. So basically we see the valve as
9 completely receded during that period.

10 The third opening which occurs right at the
11 end of the prolonged safety injection phase at about
12 10:38 you will notice that the pressure drops much
13 further than the two previous openings. We believe at
14 this point that the code safety has seen two-phase
15 flow. As the valve opens this is the time when they
16 terminate safety injection in trying to cut down
17 releases to the atmosphere.

18 At about 10:40, right at the end of the
19 prolonged safety injection, they have secured the last
20 condensate pump on the condensers. This causes the
21 steam generator ejectors to trip off the line. This
22 causes them now to shift to using the A steam generator
23 steaming to atmosphere through its power operated relief
24 valve.

25 Interviews indicate that the reason they did

1 this was to prevent further contamination of the in-line
2 polishers, the demineralizer system and also the
3 condensate storage tank.

4 During the following period, which we call
5 Phase 6, leak reduction, here they are trying to reduce
6 the leakage between the primary system and the secondary
7 system. They are in a paradox. They are in a procedure
8 which says you have got to secure safety injection and
9 you have got to regain normal pressurizer level control
10 before you restart the reactor coolant pump.

11 They know they have a bubble in the top of the
12 reactor pressure vessel and they want to deal with
13 that. They don't want it to grow too large so that it
14 would hamper natural circulation. A good demonstration
15 that the core is cool the thermocouples indicated. The
16 pressure in the A steam generator and the fact that they
17 are able to steam the A steam generator clearly
18 indicates that natural circulation is occurring. The
19 delta T indicates natural circulation is occurring.

20 So they want to start a reactor coolant pump
21 to re-establish some normalcy in the primary system and
22 to expedite the cool-down and recovery phase. About
23 11:19 they start a safety injection pump for the purpose
24 of an anticipated pressure transient which they expect
25 when the reactor coolant pump is started. They leave

1 that on for a little while and it causes another code
2 safety to lift.

3 Unfortunately, we lose a lot of data at this
4 point.

5 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: What happened?

6 MR. MARTIN: The computer crashes. It is a
7 Prodac 250. You can see the dotted line there.

8 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Twenty minutes.

9 MR. MARTIN: The only information we have
10 during that period is really the information we have
11 from the strip chart, the one non-safety related strip
12 chart from that pressure transmitter located on the A
13 hot leg. That is really what you see on the dotted line
14 there. So the reactor coolant pump starts during the
15 period when we haven't got any really good data.

16 Subsequently after the reactor coolant pump
17 has been restarted, if there was any residual bubble
18 left, and we don't really believe there was much of one
19 left because they had operated the safety injection
20 system and they had pumped it up pretty well. Also, the
21 thermocouple readings up in the upper head told us that
22 at maximum it couldn't be much greater than 300 cubic
23 feet at that time anyway. The reactor coolant pump
24 starting would have caused good circulation in the upper
25 head. Any bubble that had been there would now have

1 collapsed and be gone.

2 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Collapsed for what
3 reason?

4 MR. MARTIN: Because of the cool water you are
5 now injecting. The water in the head was running 480 or
6 490 and your temperature of your water in your cold leg
7 of your "A" was running much less than that. In fact, I
8 think I have a graph of that later on.

9 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: You are essentially
10 cooling the bubble?

11 MR. MARTIN: Exactly. There are actually flow
12 holes that inject cool water up into this area even
13 through a normal operation. So once the reactor coolant
14 pumps start the turbulence and all then these injections
15 should cause cooling of that bubble if it is still there
16 and collapse it.

17 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Because the increase
18 of pressure by itself wouldn't do it.

19 MR. MARTIN: Understood.

20 Subsequently after the computer comes back up
21 you will notice that there is again a wide difference
22 between the primary system and the steam generator. We
23 have had another safety valve lift. This time it is
24 probably seeing pure water and it doesn't recede well.
25 We know the lines are full. If the lines are full and

1 you have got this kind of leak that this delta P implies
2 is going into the steam generator it has got to be going
3 some place.

4 We say it probably went out the safety valve.
5 The licensee probably wouldn't have been able to see it
6 though because he is steaming off the "A" steam
7 generator and the plume side by side and you wouldn't
8 know where it is coming from. The valves are right side
9 by side. So we wouldn't expect the operators to note
10 this.

11 So you go through the period of the leaking
12 safeties. Subsequently at about a little before 12:30
13 it seems to seep, the valve seems to seep. Subsequent
14 to that they establish a long-term cool-down. They go
15 onto RHR about 7 a.m. the next morning and they are in
16 the cold shutdown at about 7 p.m. the next evening.

17 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Tim, somewhere along the
18 line I got the impression that the safety relief valves
19 on the secondary side have lifted only for a few
20 minutes. Now this indicates that they had lifted ---

21 MR. MARTIN: The original numbers, about two
22 minutes, was the operator's recollection from
23 overhearing the noise. They are not very quiet.
24 Actually the majority of water that we found leaving the
25 system is during these periods of leaking.

1 For instance, in period eight, we believe that
2 the safety is leaking about a hundred gallons per minute
3 during that period of time. That is about a 50-minute
4 period so that is a significant amount of water.

5 Our total number of water loss from the system
6 runs around 18,300 gallons. That is around 117,000
7 pounds.

8 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What did you say the leak
9 rate was during period eight?

10 MR. MARTIN: About 100 gallons per minute. I
11 think that is an underestimate. It is a little higher.

12 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: How about when they first
13 opened?

14 MR. MARTIN: Between 10:19 and 10:28 that
15 would have been only steam leaking out which would be
16 equivalent to about 20 gallons of water. Basically what
17 you have got there, you have got about 20 gallons of
18 water leaking in. You really just displacing volumes.
19 You are moving the same amount of volume in steam as you
20 are replacing with water.

21 The system at this point, our calculations of
22 inventory show that the steam lines would not yet be
23 full. So they are filling at this point and steam is
24 being vented. The equivalent of about 20 pounds of
25 water would have been vented from the safeties during

1 this period of time.

2 Now a little bit later I have got some graphs
3 of leak rates. In fact, I think it is the next one.

4 May we have the next slide, please.

5 This slide represents our calculations of
6 leakage rate flow, if you will, through the steam
7 generator. Our maximum rate computer was about 760
8 gallons per minute. You can see that there was a period
9 where it went negative. That was during the period the
10 power operated relief valve got stuck. You can see in
11 general that it ran 200 or 300 for a considerable length
12 of period out there.

13 We also did a tank balance. By the way, the
14 data generated by the plant is for operations. It is
15 really not for post-event analysis. The tank
16 information we had was minimal. Safety injection flows
17 were minimal. You know, if somebody remembered to write
18 them down we had them but that is the only way we got
19 them. The charging flows the same way. Temperatures,
20 there is a lot of information that it was difficult to
21 come up with and in many cases had to be implied.

22 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Tim, during the early
23 part of the accident I was told the leak rate was
24 something around 75 I guess it was gallons per minute.
25 Do you remember that?

1 MR. HAYNES: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I don't see any of
3 this ---

4 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: We passed through it
5 several times, Joe.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What is that?

7 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: We pass through 75 very
8 rapidly.

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. HAYNES: As I recall, Mr. Chairman, around
11 11 a.m. or shortly thereafter we reported 75 gallons per
12 minute and that was based upon what the plant was
13 experiencing as their charging flow at that time of 75
14 gallons per minute. So it was an inferred type reading.

15 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Yes. It looks like it
16 was certainly higher than that at that particular time.

17 MR. HAYNES: Yes, it does.

18 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: As a matter of fact,
19 except for that one dip, it was always higher.

20 MR. HAYNES: Right.

21 MR. MARTIN: We of course have had two months
22 to come up with these numbers.

23 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Yes, I appreciate that.
24 I was thinking that one of the things you try to
25 estimate during the course of an accident is how bad it

1 is. I was wondering how you felt about having an
2 estimate of 75 and trying seeking overall that it was
3 much more rapid? Is there anything we can do to improve
4 our estimating as a result of what we learned at this
5 accident?

6 MR. HAYNES: I am sure there is. Like I say,
7 it was an inferred reading of what they got from the
8 charging flow and safety injection flow and how much is
9 throttled. I can well imagine it is very difficult for
10 the operators. As Tim said, the plant is really
11 designed for operator as opposed for post-event or
12 accident analysis.

13 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: It seems to me the
14 point is they reported an inferred reading on the basis
15 of the charging flow and that is probably the best you
16 can do rather than report it as the leak rate.

17 MR. HAYNES: That is right.

18 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Yes. I was just trying
19 to find out if the next time we get something like that
20 that we have to worry that it is considerably higher.
21 Maybe that is something we can look at later.

22 MR. MARTIN: May we have the next slide,
23 please.

24 This next slide represents our attempt ---

25 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: I think there is an

1 important point there. Often in these occasions we have
2 had things reported without it be made clear just what
3 the basis for the particular report is. I think by
4 conveying that as well it gives it a little bit of a
5 context and it is easier to place it in your mind and
6 fix the importance of it.

7 MR. HAYNES: That is a soft number and you go
8 get a harder number.

9 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Well, I remember having
11 discussions later. I said, well, I heard 75 gpm, and he
12 said, oh, it was up much higher than that. I was trying
13 to get a feel for how we get information during the
14 course of an accident. I agree.

15 MR. MARTIN: This next slide represents the
16 task force's attempt to quantify the thermal transient
17 that the reactor vessel may have seen. After the
18 reactor coolant pumps were tripped the "A" loop very
19 quickly established a natural circulation. We estimate
20 it to be about 8,000 gallons per minute.

21 Using only the "A" loop's temperature trace
22 you come up with a cool-down rate of about 100 degrees
23 per hour, 116, or something like that. So the majority
24 of the reactor vessel would have seen that type of
25 temperature transient. That was really the maximum

1 during the early part of the event. Subsequently it is
2 certainly much lower than that.

3 Until the "B" main steam isolation valve was
4 shut and the feedwater flow to the "B" steam generator
5 was isolated, it, too, saw about 8,000 gallons per
6 minute natural circulation flow. Subsequent to securing
7 feeding and subsequent to shutting the main steam
8 isolation valve the "B" steam generator basically heated
9 up to whatever TH was and we stagnated natural
10 circulation and then the "B" loop when through some type
11 of transient. You see here what the RTD on the cold leg
12 showed us happened in the "B" loop.

13 Again, I want to remind you this sticks only
14 like an inch into the pipe. It is 27 and a half inches
15 in diameter and it is almost right on top of the
16 injection point of this water coming from the RWST.

17 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But you are dropping
18 from something like 535 or 540 down to a minimum there
19 of about 270 over a period of, what, 30 minutes.

20 MR. MARTIN: That is true. But remember this
21 is back in the loop. This is a considerable distance in
22 the loop.

23 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Yes, I understand
24 that. But you didn't talk about the significance then
25 of that later pump.

1 MR. MARTIN: That is a true statement.

2 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Now what your data
3 seems to imply then is that you have something like a
4 260 degree drop in half an hour.

5 MR. MARTIN: In the loop right by that RDT.

6 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Right. Then you have
7 to talk about how much of a drop, how rapid a drop do
8 you have as you go back further. I agree. But it is
9 correct that your data has a 260 degree drop in half an
10 hour.

11 MR. MARTIN: This is what the data would
12 suggest. That is correct, and that is only on the "B"
13 side.

14 What we did then was we looked at what was
15 happening in the "B" loop. We had a break in the loop.
16 There is going to be flow to the loop. It is going to
17 come from the hot leg and it is going to come from the
18 cold leg. Using a very simplified assumption that the
19 water is going to be mixed real well before it goes by
20 this RTD, we were able to match the temperature
21 transient seen by the RDT by assuming a reverse flow in
22 the cold loop of approximately 400 gallons per minute.
23 With that assumption and the known safety injection flow
24 and the known charging flow you can see how the dark
25 black line lays very closely on top of the transient

1 that you actually experienced in the loop.

2 Now if that really occurred that way, what
3 that suggests is that it is like 400 gallons per minute
4 coming out of the reactor vessel toward the break
5 sweeping the safety injection and changing flow toward
6 the break and therefore the reactor vessel would never
7 see the transient that you are seeing in the "B" loop.

8 Now what are the problem with that? Well,
9 first of all, the break flow at max was calculated to be
10 about 400 gpm at this point already. So 400 gpm plus
11 the safety injection flow, which is about 200 gpm, plus
12 the charging flow certainly can't be flowing back that
13 way.

14 Well, the next place you draw back is well,
15 maybe there is not complete mixing. If there is not
16 complete mixing you could get the same transient by
17 doing some mixed mean. But the bottom line is we can't
18 tell you. I cannot tell you today that that vessel
19 right below the "B" loop didn't see a significant
20 thermal transient greater than the average that they
21 experienced. We try it and the instrumentation just
22 does not provide us the information to give you that
23 answer.

24 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: That is then the
25 interpretation. I noticed the language in your report

1 seemed to be carefully chosen that suggested that the
2 flow to the faulted loop may not have ---

3 MR. MARTIN: We are confident that there was
4 flow toward the faulted loop but certainly not of this
5 magnitude. I can't today tell you that it didn't
6 happen, that there wasn't a significant, this
7 200-and-some-odd degree drop that you pointed out.

8 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Let's see, where does
9 this leave us?

10 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Let me go back to a
11 point I raised earlier before you came here, Vic. I
12 guess I am disturbed that there is no conclusions or
13 recommendations out of this. I recognize, Tim, that
14 your charter was not to have conclusions and
15 recommendations, but you have had this group of people,
16 very knowledgeable people, spend all this time digging
17 through this and I guess I feel on several of these
18 points that you come across that it short of cries out
19 for a "therefore," therefore more work or therefore this
20 is our conclusion or therefore the plant management
21 ought to do this or therefore NRC ought to do this.
22 This is one area that seems to need a "therefore."

23 MR. DIRCKS: The "therefore's" are coming.

24 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But I would have felt
25 that this report ought to have had ---

1 MR. DIRCKS: But you make a choice. Do you
2 want the report fairly quickly and with the facts laid
3 on the table or do you want the "therefore's" and get it
4 three or four months later.

5 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Is there another
6 report in the works?

7 MR. DIRCKS: Yes. What we are going to do is
8 take this report and get it back to the program offices
9 to come up with a ---

10 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But, Bill, these people
11 did do this report. This group now has spent all this
12 time digging through this. I guess I would liked to,
13 and in fact I know I would have liked to, and in fact
14 given that the Chairman's letter said that it would have
15 conclusions and recommendations ---

16 MR. DIRCKS: I think you are going to get
17 recommendations. I think the report lays out a very
18 exhaustive and comprehensive statement of what happened
19 there.

20 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Is there some reason
21 why the writers of the report couldn't put down their
22 recommendations?

23 MR. DIRCKS: Well, I think we have had
24 experience with trying to assemble facts and coming up
25 with a series of recommendations that become then a

1 driving force for agency actions that when we go back
2 and take a look at a year later we say, well, really
3 were we pressed by time to come up with that
4 recommendation or pressed by some other reasons? I think
5 it is better to say what are the immediate actions that
6 we have to take as a result of this? The answer I get
7 is no.

8 Then if there are no immediate actions let's
9 go back and do an exhaustive analysis of the facts and
10 then come in with a statement of recommendations that
11 have a ---

12 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Are you going to let
13 these authors at least whisper to this longer-range
14 group?

15 MR. DIRCKS: Many of the authors are actually
16 now going back to review the statement from the
17 longer-term, and I hate to use the term, action plan
18 connotation.

19 (Laughter.)

20 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Tim, are there any
21 analyses that you think might be made to give us a
22 better handle on what happened to ---

23 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Careful, that sounds
24 like a recommendation.

25 (Laughter.)

1 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I am sympathetic with
2 your point of view so I am trying to be careful. But
3 are there some analyses that we could make that would
4 give us a better handle on what might have happened in
5 the reactor vessel, the reactor vessel temperature?

6 MR. MARTIN: I believe there is certainly
7 capability in the agency or with the contractors to do a
8 computer modeling of it and do a lot more than we were
9 able to. We have the facts to feed into that model. We
10 know approximately what the safety injection and the
11 charging flows were and we have the temperature
12 information.

13 If I might, I am going to turn to Gary Holahan
14 who can probably answer that better.

15 Gary.

16 MR. HOLAHAN: I am Gary Holahan from NRR.
17 What you see here are basically hand calculations from
18 the data available from the plant. Certainly more
19 detailed calculations could be do with any of a number
20 of computer codes that are available. A basic
21 one-dimensional calculation could be done with a code
22 like RELAP or a comparable code that Westinghouse would
23 have, or an even more complicated sophisticated
24 calculation could be done with the TRACK code from one
25 of our contractors.

1 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: What kind of confidence
2 do you have in those codes?

3 MR. HOLAHAN: You always have to be somewhat
4 skeptical, but in this case you have got the data. If
5 the code can match the data without too much fine-tuning
6 of the code then I think you could live with the answers.

7 MR. DIRCKS: Let me make one point though on
8 the recommendations. The restart review for Ginna is
9 now ongoing. So you are going to pick up the actual
10 content here in the restart review. Many of the members
11 who worked on this report are participating in the
12 restart review. So that is one vehicle in which you get
13 recommendations or recommended actions to be taken in
14 regard to this particular reactor.

15 What I was talking about before is
16 recommendations cutting across action that may have a
17 generic meaning for many reactors. That is what I was
18 talking about before.

19 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Bill, will some further
20 attempt be made to evaluate what we think the rate of
21 temperature drop for various parts of the vessel have
22 been?

23 MR. DIRCKS: That I am sure is going to be
24 part of the analysis during this restart review.

25 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: That is what I was

1 getting at because the implication that part of the
2 vessel got something like a 260 degree drop in a half
3 hour seems extreme and may not bear any resemblance to
4 what actually took place.

5 MR. DIRCKS: Anything in here is not going to
6 be overlooked and particularly in the restart review.

7 MR. DENTON: I think that particular area is
8 one in which the steering group did press the task force
9 to make as definitive statement as they could and it is
10 one that we are going to have to follow up on very
11 closely. They have pushed as hard as they could within
12 the time frames they have had to get answers and we will
13 pick it up from there and see what else we can do to
14 better establish what did happen to the vessel. I think
15 it is a key issue to be resolved before restart and we
16 will do that.

17 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Is that being done in NRR?

18 MR. DENTON: Yes.

19 MR. DIRCKS: With a good deal of contribution
20 from Region I.

21 MR. DENTON: Of course, Mr. Holahan who just
22 spoke is in the Division of Licensing and will be
23 heavily involved in that proceeding.

24 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Do you want to proceed.

25 MR. MARTIN: The next slide, please.

1 This particular slide which I am going to use
2 to talk about the radiological information, you are
3 looking to the northwest. The lake is to the right and
4 at the top and you are actually looking right at the
5 plume.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Right at the what?

7 MR. MARTIN: Right at the plume. The wind
8 during the majority of this event, during the time when
9 the releases occurred actually came right across the
10 plant towards you.

11 The tower which you see behind the plant is
12 the primary meteorological tower. There is a back-up
13 meteorological tower off the picture to the left.

14 Some important things. If you will notice the
15 large building closest to the lake. In the northeast
16 corner you will see a little pipe sticking up. That
17 happens to be the air ejector exhaust. That was where
18 the first releases came from.

19 Subsequently if you look in to the large
20 square building which is a little further to the south,
21 you are looking inside the facade which goes around it.
22 Reading from west to east across the north facade, you
23 have the auxiliary turbine exhaust which very early in
24 the event had some releases, the "A" steam generator
25 PORV, and then almost in the eastern side of that facade

1 the "B" steam generator code safety that released the
2 majority of activity.

3 Now in the south face of that facade you will
4 notice that it drops straight down and runs into another
5 building. There is actually a space between that
6 building and the facade that you can crawl under and it
7 happens to be right here where the auxiliary building
8 ventilation suction is located.

9 Now that is important because in the wake that
10 occurs from this plume that actually tumbles over the
11 edge of the building, this ventilation system picks it
12 up and low and behold we do get radiation particulate
13 and iodine alarms from the monitors which are located on
14 the exhaust from the auxiliary building ventilation
15 system.

16 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Did I follow that
17 correctly? I thought you were saying they were picking
18 up radioactivity from the outside?

19 MR. MARTIN: They are actually sucking it back
20 into the building.

21 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: That is a new invention.

22 (Laughter.)

23 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Not necessarily
24 desirable.

25 MR. MARTIN: Coming on out from the plant you

1 see the grove of trees. Just behind the grove of trees
2 we have our maximum verified on-site reading of about
3 three MR per hour, and it was right up against the fence.

4 Then in the middle of the field that seems to
5 be circled by that road you see the white spot. That
6 white spot happens to be the location of the two TLD's
7 which showed significant readings, the licensee reading
8 which gave 21.7 M-rad integrated dose and the New York
9 State TLD which read 9.4 millirad.

10 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Where is that?

11 MR. MARTIN: This is the white spot in the
12 middle of the field which you see circled by the road.
13 Now I am also waiting for this answer so let me turn to
14 Mr. Nehemias.

15 Would you tell me why those two read
16 differently?

17 MR. NEHEMIAS: Principally simply that the
18 state dosimeter was higher.

19 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: How much higher?

20 MR. NEHEMIAS: About eight feet for the state
21 and about four and a half feet for the licensee.

22 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: And the three and a
23 half foot difference is the reason?

24 MR. NEHEMIAS: Yes.

25 MR. MARTIN: I have been waiting for that

1 answer.

2 MR. HAYNES: There is snow on the ground.

3 MR. MARTIN: Yes, there is a lot of snow on
4 the ground here.

5 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Four feet?

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. MARTIN: I think one of the points we
8 should make here is this was a very cold day, high
9 humidity day, there was snow and almost all the activity
10 that was condensable or was entrainable by moisture fell
11 right out on the plant and the plant property on site.
12 This circular drive is still on site. All these
13 readings are on site.

14 Now there was one significant reading off site
15 just off the lower left-hand side of the picture. At
16 the intersection of Lake Road and Ontario Road at about
17 mid-day there was a reading of 1.2 M-rad per hour, but
18 that was the only off-site dose of significance that was
19 measured.

20 To give you some feel for the releases. Our
21 computation indicates about 90 curies of noble gases
22 were released, about 0.4 curies dose equivalent of
23 Iodine 131 and 1.3 curies of particulate, including
24 cobalt, molybdenum, barium and cesium. There was also
25 about 25 curies of tritium most of it in the form of

1 water.

2 I just want to point out that the nobel gases
3 and the Iodine 131 releases do not exceed design
4 analysis numbers. Particularly I want to focus in on
5 the iodine since it has the largest effect.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What was your iodine
7 reading?

8 MR. MARTIN: It was 0.4 curies dose equivalent
9 iodine. If you just add it up, you know, the total of
10 the iodines, it came to around five curies. I do want
11 to point out though that this plant was running only a
12 few percent of its tech spec limit of iodine in the
13 primary system. Therefore, there wasn't that much ready
14 for release.

15 A review of the chemistry data before versus
16 around 12:50 that afternoon when another sample was
17 taken, there appears to have been no iodine spike which
18 is assumed in the analysis.

19 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: There is something you
20 said that I guess I don't understand. You said the
21 total of how much iodine?

22 MR. MARTIN: Total of about five curies.

23 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Now what was the
24 four-tenths?

25 MR. MARTIN: The four-tenths is the dose

1 equivalent Iodine 131. In other words, if you were
2 looking for what is the equivalent amount of Iodine 131
3 which would cause the same effect to a human, then it
4 comes out 0.4 curies.

5 MR. HAYNES: And I believe the technical
6 specification is in dose equivalent.

7 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Is in what?

8 MR. HAYNES: Is in dose equivalent for Iodine
9 131, the longer half life.

10 MR. MARTIN: Actually the way it works out is
11 it is dose equivalent for the activity in the primary
12 system and you really end up with dose equivalency
13 because of the way the tech spec is worded.

14 Now one thing that we did note here was that
15 there was water released from the safeties versus steam
16 which is assumed. Because there was water released you
17 do not get the partitioning of the iodine into much
18 smaller releases per cc of matter. Also, you get
19 particulate that you would not normally expect in a
20 design analysis. It was of interest to us and that is
21 what we found.

22 Basically it was forced on the plant because
23 of the configuration of the piping and the fact that
24 they did allow the piping to flood and fill.

25 There is one other point to make on this

1 picture. You will notice the building in the middle off
2 site to the left. That is the licensee's evacuation
3 center. It also was in the plume and the licensee did
4 evacuate people into the plume to this location. He did
5 not have an alternate evacuation site nor does NRC
6 require one.

7 I wonder if I can have the next slide, please.

8 I wanted to show you this slide to give you
9 some feel for where the water came from that ruptured
10 the PRT rupture disk. During containment isolation the
11 valve on the right-hand side, FC-371, that gets a "T"
12 signal goes shut if it is containment isolation
13 valve. The valves inside that to the left do not get a
14 signal.

15 The valve, 427, which is coming from the
16 reactor coolant system, that valve goes shut when the
17 pressurizer level goes out the bottom. Basically this
18 is a level control system, if you will. So when the
19 initial transient caused the pressurizer level to drop,
20 the valve 427 went shut.

21 When it goes shut the selected orifice valve,
22 the 200A, 200B and 202, whichever one is selected, would
23 also go shut. So while the pressurizer level is
24 off-scale low these valves would all remain shut.

25 Further, on containment isolation you kill the

1 instrument air inside containment and therefore the
2 valves assume their fail position. So the orifice
3 isolation valves all fail closed so they would stay
4 closed and 427 would subsequently drift open.

5 When the containment isolation was reset you
6 don't open the valves immediately. All that does is
7 allow you now to take manual control of the valves.

8 One of the valves that was opened after
9 containment reset was instrument air, opening instrument
10 air then pressurized the system. You would expect 427
11 to go shut because the pressurizer level was still
12 off-scale low and you would expect the orifice valves to
13 assume whatever position was commanded for 427.

14 When the pressurized came back on scale on
15 opening the PORV 427 would stroke open. When it strokes
16 open the reactor coolant system pressure comes in
17 through the orifice valve. Since there is no flow the
18 orifices don't follow your pressure any and this line
19 starts to pressurize. Relief valve 203 then opened and
20 you can watch the pressure trace and the level trace on
21 the PRT and it very quickly starts to fill.

22 Now pressure didn't go up that much as a
23 result of filling because apparently there was some
24 leakage in the vent valve that goes back to the vent
25 header. The vent header is a gaseous waste treatment

1 system. But subsequently when the PRT went solid, was
2 full of water, then the pressure, basically as seen
3 reactor coolant system pressure ruptured this loop.
4 This was the major contributor to the inventory increase
5 in the PRT.

6 May I have the next slide, please.

7 This is a slide of the steam generator at
8 Ginna. There are a couple of points I want to point out
9 to you.

10 Coming down the right-hand side you will see a
11 downcomer flow resistance plate. That flow resistance
12 plate was put in the generator to control recirculation
13 in the generator and actually can be moved up and down
14 and can shut off the loop circulation flow.

15 In 1975 the licensee made a modification to
16 the steam generator at the recommendation of
17 Westinghouse and cut the orifice plate out, just flame
18 cut it out. We have looked at the procedure. The one
19 thing the procedure doesn't have although it has tools
20 in and tools out type inventory, it didn't have make
21 sure you have got all the ring out in your hands.

22 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Was that a modification
23 which was unique to Ginna?

24 MR. MARTIN: No, sir, I do not believe it is.

25 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Was it a modification

1 requested of Salem?

2 MR. WIGGONS: It is not a generic modification.

3 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: They took that whole ring
4 out?

5 MR. MARTIN: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Except for ---

7 MR. MARTIN: Well, you are getting to the
8 punch line.

9 (Laughter.)

10 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: They were supposed to
11 take the whole ring out.

12 MR. MARTIN: The other part of the steam
13 generator I would like to point out to you is the
14 wrapper plate inside the shell comes down I think it is
15 about 17 inches above the tube sheet and then you can
16 see the tubes inside. The tubes that are going to be of
17 interest to us are going to be the peripheral tubes, the
18 ones located on the outside and in fact those on the hot
19 leg. So you see the primary coolant inlet. That is
20 where the hot leg tubes come up there.

21 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Tim, let me ask a
22 question. This is a generic action that was taken?

23 MR. MARTIN: That is my understanding.

24 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But the procedures that
25 Westinghouse put on didn't specifically address taking

1 out the ---

2 MR. REYNOLDS: The procedure included a
3 provision for putting in a protective system to prevent
4 dropping things into the steam generator. That was in
5 the procedure. The procedure did not call for
6 reassembly of all of the parts of the ring to make sure
7 you had 100 percent of all of the volume of the ring
8 when you took it out.

9 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: To your knowledge, has
10 any other licensee run into the problem of parts of that
11 left inside the steam generator?

12 MR. REYNOLDS: Westinghouse has indicated
13 there is no indication of similar peripheral tube
14 problems on any other steam generators.

15 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I wasn't asking whether
16 there was any similar tube problems. I was asking
17 whether you had any indication of any other licensee
18 having found any pieces that had been left behind after
19 that modification?

20 MR. REYNOLDS: Not to my knowledge?

21 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: How many steam generators
22 were there in which this modification was made or how
23 many plants?

24 MR. REYNOLDS: I believe all the 44 series
25 were similarly modified. Now I can't say for sure.

1 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What, half a dozen, or
2 more or less?

3 MR. MARTIN: I don't think we can answer that,
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I was just wondering if
6 anything peculiar was happening to those plants.

7 MR. MARTIN: Could we have the next slide,
8 please.

9 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Maybe I am asking the
10 question too soon. Was one of the pieces or one or more
11 of the pieces that was found in there, did it come from
12 this ring or was it presumed to come from this ring?

13 MR. MARTIN: We believe it is and I have a
14 picture here very shortly to show you.

15 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, you question about
16 whether anything peculiar was happening at the other
17 plants ---

18 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: On this modification.

19 MR. HAYNES: Yes. I believe Sam did try to
20 address that because the information he got from
21 Westinghouse is that none of the other plants that had
22 undergone the modification had shown indications with
23 peripheral tube problems like Ginna has experienced.

24 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Well, did Ginna have any
25 precursor symptoms before ---

1 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

2 MR. HAYNES: Oh, yes.

3 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: --- someone addressed
4 that something like that was happening?

5 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: So if it was not
7 happening at the other plants you might have a higher
8 assurance that there is no similar problem.

9 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

10 On this slide, what we have here is a picture
11 of the tube sheet for just the hot side. The circled
12 areas are those that have plugged tubes. The ones with
13 "x's" have sleeves in them. The ones in the center part
14 of the semicircle are basically sludge related problems,
15 chemical problems. They can either be in the sludge
16 area above the tube sheet or in the crevice area below
17 it.

18 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Some of these are dark
19 circles. What does that mean?

20 MR. MARTIN: The dark circles mean it is
21 simply plugged. The circles with an "x" through it
22 means it is sleeved.

23 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: The dark circle with an
24 "x".

25 MR. MARTIN: That means it is sleeved.

1 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: And the plain circle?

2 MR. MARTIN: The plain circle means just
3 plugged.

4 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Means what?

5 MR. MARTIN: Plugged. It has a plug that
6 prevents flow through it.

7 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: That is if it is solid.
8 What if it is just an open circle?

9 MR. MARTIN: If it is just an open circle that
10 is a flow hole. It basically is a place where flow can
11 go through.

12 The ones in the center ---

13 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: What are we looking at
14 here? This isn't a tube sheet ---

15 MR. MARTIN: I am looking right down at the
16 tube sheet.

17 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: This is the tube sheet.

18 MR. MARTIN: This is the tube sheet and it is
19 showing what are the different tubes. Basically at the
20 intersection of each line there is a tube there. For
21 those that we chose to put black marks, that is a
22 plugged tube at that location. For those that have
23 black marks with an "x" through it, that means it is
24 sleeved. Those that have simply little circles, those
25 are flow holes.

1 Mr. Haynes has brought something to my
2 attention. If you look around the periphery of the
3 semicircle you see the pattern of little open circles.
4 Those represent tubes. You notice those little dots.
5 Those are the flow holes we are talking about.

6 Sam, is that right?

7 MR. REYNOLDS: The dots around the outside are
8 the outer boundary of the flow holes in the tube support
9 plate.

10 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: That is the dots.
11 There are dots and circles.

12 MR. REYNOLDS: The dots on here indicate the
13 extent of the flow holes. They have flow holes inboard
14 of that but not outboard of that.

15 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: And the circles also ---

16 MR. REYNOLDS: Oh, these circles are just the
17 tube holes.

18 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: So then you legend down
19 in the middle isn't correct.

20 MR. REYNOLDS: That really should be a dot.

21 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: What do you mean by a
23 wedge area?

24 MR. MARTIN: The tubes are supported at six
25 locations I believe coming up through the steam

1 generator. Basically they are perforated plates the
2 tubes pass through and those plates have to be supported
3 from the wrapper. At the wedge areas is where you
4 actually have supports.

5 Now there are 12 wedge areas around the
6 wrapper. Each tube sheet has six support points. The
7 lowest tube support is supporting each even number wedge
8 area, the next one at each odd, et cetera. So the wedge
9 area is simply for location purposes.

10 It just so happens that the problem we
11 experienced this time was in the No. 4 wedge area. It
12 is a locational aid, if you will, at this point.

13 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I almost followed you and
14 then I got lost about one-third of the way through.

15 (Laughter.)

16 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Could you start over.

17 MR. MARTIN: The tubes are supported by tube
18 support plates and there are about six of them.

19 Can I go back to that previous slide.

20 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Are they complete plates?

21 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

22 If you will notice the tube support plates
23 marching up the bundle. Now each one of these tube
24 support plates is hung from the wrapper and they are
25 hung by wedges. Each tube support plate has six wedge

1 positions and they alternate.

2 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What do you mean hung by
3 wedges.

4 MR. MARTIN: So there are 12 locations total
5 around a wrapper.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What do you mean hung by
7 wedges?

8 MR. MARTIN: They actually are wedged into
9 place. There are three little wedges that are knocked
10 in and after the wedges are put in place then the
11 support plate is welded to the wedge and the wedge is
12 then welded to the wrapper.

13 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I see, and there are how
14 many wedges around?

15 MR. MARTIN: For a support plate there are six
16 support points and a total of 12 wedge locations because
17 they alternate as you go up the bundle.

18 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: So going around the
19 periphery you use one, two, three, four?

20 MR. MARTIN: That is correct.

21 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: So now when you talk
22 about wedge area No. 4 it is on a particular peripheral
23 position?

24 MR. MARTIN: Yes, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Well, is there any
2 significance to the fact that the plugged holes at least
3 in the periphery are almost always in a wedge area?

4 MR. MARTIN: The majority of them seem to be.

5 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Does that tell us
6 anything?

7 MR. MARTIN: The licensee originally
8 attributed the failures he was experiencing to a
9 stiffness in that area. I am not sure he still does
10 today. I have not seen his latest analysis nor have we
11 completed ours. But you are correct. It does seem in
12 the majority of cases on the periphery to locate in
13 these areas.

14 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: What is the basis for
15 your earlier statement, and I am not disputing it, but
16 how do you know that it was a sludge problem on these
17 middle tubes.

18 MR. MARTIN: Let me turn to my expert.
19 Sam.

20 MR. REYNOLDS: That is the typical sludge
21 location. They have sludge. The characteristics that
22 they had at phosphate water treatment were similar to
23 the standard sludge phosphate water treatment problems.
24 Eddy Current was the one that told them that they had
25 indications to tubes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Okay.

2 MR. REYNOLDS: We didn't go into that in great
3 detail in the NUREG because it is well documented in
4 other NRC documents.

5 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Now your previous
6 point, Sam, that you had mentioned that there were no
7 other plants that had experienced anything similar. You
8 mean they had not experienced tube degradation out in
9 the far perimeter? Is that your point?

10 MR. REYNOLDS: They did not experience tube
11 degradation problems of say a cancerous growth mode like
12 this on peripheral tubes. I can't say that they didn't
13 have any peripheral tube problems that may have been
14 denting or some other mechanism. I can't make that
15 statement because I just don't know.

16 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: So you are not sure if
17 you had a similar chart of other plants that you might
18 get this pattern on the outside?

19 MR. REYNOLDS: What I am saying is I certainly
20 cannot say categorically that if you looked at other
21 series 44 steam generators that you would not find an
22 occasional peripheral tube plugged, but you would not
23 find a pattern of tube plugging ---

24 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: A large number of them.

25 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Why wouldn't you find

1 them?

2 MR. REYNOLDS: Excuse me?

3 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Why wouldn't you find
4 them in other steam generators?

5 MR. REYNOLDS: They have not been found by any
6 kind of testing in any other plants and there is no ---

7 MR. MARTIN: They haven't experienced the same
8 set of problems.

9 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Because it happened in
10 this one doesn't mean that ---

11 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: But he made it sound like
12 it was so obvious that it wouldn't happen.

13 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: What I was trying to
14 follow was the line that if they made this change
15 generically did other plants perhaps have this stuff
16 drop in, and I think his counter was if it had then you
17 would have expected to see the peripheral tubes or a
18 larger number and they haven't seen them.

19 MR. MARTIN: This particular drawing shows the
20 situation prior to the event. The problems that had
21 been experienced in the No. 4 wedge area had been
22 basically progressing inward toward the center of the
23 figure.

24 Sam, can you tell me the approximate time the
25 first one appeared in the No. 2 wedge area, the first

1 problem?

2 MR. REYNOLDS: 7/77.

3 MR. MARTIN: 7/77. The original modification
4 was made in '75 on the orifice plate. If the part that
5 was found truly came from there it could have been
6 sitting in there from that time.

7 The next slide, please.

8 No, hold that slide.

9 This slide shows a picture of the largest
10 piece that was removed from the "B" steam generator.
11 Although you can't see it real well in this photograph,
12 the piece has markings on it, parallel grooves that are
13 spaced at approximately the spacing you would find on
14 tubes and they are basically indented just as if it had
15 been sitting and bounding against the tubes like that.

16 The drilled hole corresponds to approximately
17 the kind of and size hole you would expect to find in
18 the orifice plate. The material is magnetic.

19 Is that true?

20 MR. REYNOLDS: It has the appearances of
21 carbon steel.

22 MR. MARTIN: We have not performed a chemical
23 analysis of it.

24 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: How thick was the
25 orifice plate, half inch?

1 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes.

2 MR. MARTIN: Everything seems to point to this
3 being a part of that plate.

4 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: You say you haven't
5 done a metallurgical examination. Has the licensee or
6 Westinghouse?

7 MR. REYNOLDS: They are in the process of
8 analyzing it, yes, to the best of my knowledge.

9 MR. MARTIN: It also has the appearance of
10 being flame cut.

11 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Wait. Excuse me.

12 Do we know whether they are or not?

13 MR. WIGGINS: They are.

14 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Thank you.

15 MR. MARTIN: The thing also has the appearance
16 of being flame cut as the procedure called for in 1975.

17 MR. HAYNES: It has got the thickness. It has
18 got the curvature. It has got the small hole, the
19 orifice hole. It is made of the same material. It is
20 very similar.

21 MR. MARTIN: The next slide.

22 This particular picture shows a tube and not
23 the ruptured tube, although obviously this one is
24 ruptured, that was found in the generator. You see
25 several rotations of it showing the structural damage

1 that has occurred. This particular tube was one of the
2 tubes that had been previously plugged.

3 Sam, do you remember why this one was
4 originally plugged?

5 MR. REYNOLDS: I will have to look on the list.

6 MR. MARTIN: Basically you can see the
7 structural mechanical damage that occurred to this
8 particular tube.

9 The next slide, please.

10 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Excuse me. What do you
11 mean "White dot points outward"? I am confused. What
12 is the terminology at the bottom of the slide?

13 MR. MARTIN: The white dot, Sam.

14 MR. REYNOLDS: They cut a hole in the shell
15 and the wrapper and reached in and put a paint marker at
16 that point. They could only get outboard so they called
17 this zero degrees and then these are the degrees based
18 on that outboard direction.

19 MR. MARTIN: Sam, do you want to comment on
20 some of the markings on those tubes?

21 MR. REYNOLDS: They are rather classic
22 fretting wear marks on tubes, like this one, for
23 example. You can see all the flat marks on there.

24 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: What are all those edges
25 down at the bottom?

1 MR. REYNOLDS: That is where the tube was
2 detached at the bottom from the rest of the tube.

3 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: That is where it was
4 broken.

5 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, detached it.

6 MR. MARTIN: Let me point out this was not the
7 ruptured tube because this one, as I understand it, had
8 been previously plugged and Sam will find out what they
9 said.

10 MR. WIGGINS: There is an indication above the
11 tube sheet. It was an indication of inner surface metal
12 loss.

13 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: They plug them at both
14 ends?

15 MR. MARTIN: They plug both ends. Of course,
16 it then no longer has the primary side pressure on the
17 inside to help support it. Whatever the mechanism was
18 that ultimately caused it to fail it wasn't as
19 defendable as it was before.

20 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Were there in a position
21 to be struck by the other pieces of metal?

22 MR. MARTIN: The metal was found at a location
23 which was displaced azimuthally from this but dragging
24 the lights through it could have moved the large pieces.

25 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: In other words, they are

1 in a position though ---

2 MR. MARTIN: It is certainly below the wrapper
3 and in a place where it could have been ---

4 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: It could have been beat
5 up by the ---

6 MR. MARTIN: It could have been.

7 MR. REYNOLDS: That is a peripheral outer tube.

8 MR. MARTIN: That is an outer tube?

9 MR. WIGGINS: That is an outer tube.

10 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Was the one that broke an
11 outer tube?

12 MR. MARTIN: No. Would you go back to the
13 previous slide, please. The one before that.

14 The arrow points toward the ruptured tube.
15 Sam's comment about a cancer, basically the problem
16 developed initially on the outside and kind of worked
17 its way in. There is precautionary plugging and other
18 things that were done.

19 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Are you saying that it
20 might have been beat up by the extraneous pieces of
21 metal?

22 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Or could it have been
23 beat up by a broken tube?

24 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Yes.

25 Go ahead.

1 MR. MARTIN: Again, Sam loves this.

2 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I mean initiated by a
3 broken tube.

4 MR. MARTIN: Sam, what is your opinion?

5 MR. REYNOLDS: The wear marks on the tube that
6 you see are in my opinion tube-to-tube fretting wear
7 marks. The damage at the bottom of the tube could
8 possibly have been associated with the loose foreign
9 object.

10 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Well, by tube to tube,
11 do you mean one tube rubbing against or banging it?

12 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But that would have
14 meant that one of the tubes would have had to have been
15 broken off at the bottom.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, sir. There were tubes
17 that were broken off completely between the first tube
18 support plate and the tube sheet.

19 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: But they were plugged?

20 MR. REYNOLDS: There were previously plugged
21 tubes that were subsequently broken off.

22 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: But I think it is an
23 important observation if true. I am not saying that you
24 have proven that. I understand this particular tube had
25 been checked at the previous inspection and was found to

1 be within our tolerance limits.

2 MR. MARTIN: Using the standards they had it
3 indicated about 20 percent and they had a 40 percent
4 criteria.

5 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: So what I am saying is
6 had this been a corrosion problem or if I were to
7 conclude that it was a corrosion problem, then it cast
8 doubt about our ability to inspect and the frequency of
9 inspection giving us any assurance that the tubes were
10 all right. If, however, it was a result of something
11 beating outside tubes that in turn beat this one, I
12 don't get comfort from it, but at least it gives me some
13 feeling that we still can rely on inspection for the
14 more normal corrosion process.

15 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Agreed.

16 Could you take a minute and perhaps talk
17 through what, from your group and perhaps Sam the
18 expert, what was the progression that led to the rupture.

19 MR. REYNOLDS: I can only give an opinion.

20 MR. MARTIN: That is what he is asking for.

21 MR. REYNOLDS: There is a group that is
22 working on this.

23 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I understand. I am
24 just asking what your opinion is.

25 MR. REYNOLDS: I certainly don't think there

1 is any question that a large foreign object on a
2 periphery of the tube would cause tube damage, would
3 cause changing of the shape of the tube which could
4 possibly cause collapsing of the tube once the tube is
5 no longer round and has a pressure on the outside of it
6 which then can change a lot of things, the natural
7 frequency of the tube.

8 There is no direct evidence that we can see of
9 going from the first damage on the outside of the tube
10 through to the final rupture. The final rupture is
11 apparently due to failure by another tube and not by the
12 foreign object because it has fretting wear marks on it
13 that are longer than nine inches and that are of the
14 geometry that you could only get by two orbiting tubes
15 touching each other on the surface giving you the score
16 marks that are horizontal to the tube.

17 So that is all I can say.

18 MR. MARTIN: You might be able to see this on
19 the next slide.

20 Can we have slide 12, please.

21 Sam, do you want to point out points on there.

22 MR. REYNOLDS: This is the tube that did
23 rupture. It is worn to the point of an almost knife
24 edge. You could cut your finger on this portion of the
25 rupture right here. We originally reported that

1 visually there was less than five percent wall thickness
2 and there are some spots where it is considerably less
3 than that.

4 The total length of the rupture is similar to
5 the length of the indication that was previously
6 reported on the Eddy Current examination as a 20 percent
7 defect. This obviously is flats on the tube. The
8 characteristic of the failure are similar to the
9 characteristics that you have when you had mixed span
10 collision of tubes, for example, in a surface condenser,
11 in that it is somewhat symmetric and runs out. The
12 rupture stops at roughly 50 percent of the wall
13 thickness of the tube.

14 There are indications on this tube of fresh
15 fretting wear marks and fretting marks that are not
16 fresh that have an oxidized appearance. So this tube
17 was being worked on in another location actually before
18 this location when all the way through the tube.

19 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Tim, do you know the
20 perimeter at the break?

21 MR. MARTIN: It is about what, seven-eighths?

22 MR. REYNOLDS: The opening here is about
23 three-quarters of an inch and the diameter is 1.05.

24 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Do you know the
25 perimeter of the metal that is left in the break? What

1 I was wonder is that when a rupture occurs sometimes it
2 isn't just a complete rupture. What first happens is
3 you begin to get enough stress that you actually get
4 some metal flow.

5 MR. REYNOLDS: Oh, sure, it balloons.

6 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: It stretches,
7 ballooning, and then it breaks.

8 MR. REYNOLDS: It increased from seven-eighths
9 of an inch to 1.15 inches measured across here.

10 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: What I was wondering is
11 you mentioned how thin the material is at that break
12 point. It wasn't clear to me that that thinning was due
13 to wear or whether it was due to the ballooning and the
14 stretch.

15 MR. REYNOLDS: In my opinion, it was due
16 mostly to wear. Certainly when you have got excessive
17 deformation of the tube in ballooning that some thinning
18 resulted from that, too.

19 MR. MARTIN: That is my last slide.

20 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Before you get through
21 with that slide. Where is that tube being examined?

22 MR. REYNOLDS: That particular tube is being
23 examined at Westinghouse Research Labs. At least it was
24 there three weeks ago. It is being obviously
25 metallurgically examined which means it is being cut up

1 into pieces and the pieces are being examined.

2 MR. MARTIN: I have some concluding remarks
3 relative to the operators and the licensee management.
4 I think that this event demonstrated that they
5 understood their plant, that they understood their
6 procedures and that they understood the philosophy of
7 coping with a steam generator tube rupture event.

8 They paid particular attention to assuring
9 that the core was adequately cooled. When they ran up
10 against problems in their procedures which didn't see to
11 fit the situation they did not just leap in and change
12 things. They assessed the situation. They made a
13 determination of what was the best course of action.
14 They did leave their procedures. They did deviate from
15 their procedures when they weren't appropriate and they
16 re-entered the procedures later on when it was.

17 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Now I gathered from
18 somewhere in your report though, I thought I ran across
19 where the operators did not think they did deviate fro
20 the procedures.

21 MR. MARTIN: That was their statement. I
22 disagree with them. I think they reacted prudently.

23 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: In other words, they
24 believe they didn't deviate and you believe they did but
25 they were correct in deviating?

1 MR. MARTIN: That is correct.

2 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Is that because the
3 procedures can be interpreted a couple of different ways?

4 MR. MARTIN: I think that their interpretation
5 is that in all cases we will act prudently, that the
6 procedures simply are a guideline. If I have to jump
7 from this procedure to that procedure to that procedure
8 to get around a hurdle in a procedure, that is following
9 my procedures. Another interpretation of the same
10 thing. I think they acted prudently and that is what I
11 was looking for.

12 MR. HAYNES: The procedure itself didn't cover
13 all of the situations what were facing the operator.
14 When it didn't cover that situation then they stoped and
15 thought and said well ---

16 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I was just puzzled by
17 the way that the report seemed to read. It was as
18 though the operators did very well. When necessary they
19 deviated from their procedures and that deviation that
20 they took was appropriate. On the other hand, the
21 operators were saying no, we did not deviate from the
22 procedures.

23 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: It is important for us to
24 begin to understand what we mean by the words "following
25 procedures."

1 MR. MARTIN: I think their response was
2 partially defensive. There had been a lot of publicity
3 relative to NRC's original assessment of their
4 performance with charges that they had not followed
5 procedures.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: But you sort of give them
7 a little justification in saying what they said because
8 you said the procedures aren't all inclusive and you
9 have to select which procedures to use at what time.
10 Maybe we have to look a little closer at procedures and
11 what we mean by the words, but that is the least of my
12 worries.

13 (Laughter.)

14 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: The impression I had is
15 they were saying look, you guys, there was a newspaper
16 flap about we were wrong, and also we know the tendency
17 perhaps of you guys to jump down our throats if we do
18 something wrong. We followed procedures.

19 MR. MARTIN: That may have been the response.
20 I think that there was some apprehension when our task
21 force arrived. We were not investigators. We were a
22 task force.

23 (Laughter.)

24 MR. MARTIN: There are two other comments I
25 would like to make.

1 The licensee did provide adequate notification
2 to both local, state and federal officials.

3 Finally, our emergency notification system
4 wasn't of the quality and reliability that we would like
5 to have during an emergency.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Which notification?

7 MR. MARTIN: This is the emergency
8 notification system, our hot line. We lost it several
9 times. It clicked off on us. The volume and quality of
10 the signal wasn't what we have have expected or hoped
11 for. But even given those detriments, it still is a
12 damned good system and we did get a lot of information
13 over it but it could be better.

14 That is all I have.

15 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Can I ask you, do you
16 draw a conclusion yet on what led to the failure of this
17 particular tube?

18 MR. MARTIN: I support Sam's opinion, but that
19 is an opinion based upon -- I am an electrical
20 engineer. So that puts it in perspective.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. MARTIN: I trust Sam.

23 MR. HAYNES: The licensee and Westinghouse are
24 continuing to try to get assurance, that they really
25 have got a definitive reason of why did the tube fail,

1 for example, at the tube sheet.

2 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Do they lean toward Sam's
3 approach?

4 MR. MARTIN: Do you want to give your approach?

5 MR. REYNOLDS: I have no information as of
6 this moment of exactly what their latest thinking is.
7 It is hard to conclude anything other than what I said.

8 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: When might we have a
9 feeling for what Westinghouse and the licensee think?

10 MR. DENTON: I might mention we have some
11 samples of the tubes being analyzed at Brookhaven. We
12 have retained a number of materials experts and I would
13 imagine within the next month, sometime before restart
14 we will have a definitive view on it. I don't think the
15 staff has a definitive position yet on what the cause
16 was.

17 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Any other questions?
18 Tom?

19 MR. REYNOLDS: (Nodding negatively.)

20 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: John?

21 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: No.

22 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Well, we thank you very
23 much. That was an interesting presentation.

24 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: We certainly thank Tim
25 and all the people who worked very hard in putting the

1 information together in a short period of time.

2 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: All right. Thank you very
3 much.

4 We will stand adjourned.

5 (Whereupon, at 3:55 p.m., the meeting
6 concluded.)

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the
COMMISSION MEETING

in the matter of: PUBLIC MEETING - DISCUSSION OF REPORT ON TASK FORCE ON
EVALUATION OF GINNA EVENT

Date of Proceeding: April 14, 1982

Docket Number:

Place of Proceeding: Washington, D. C.

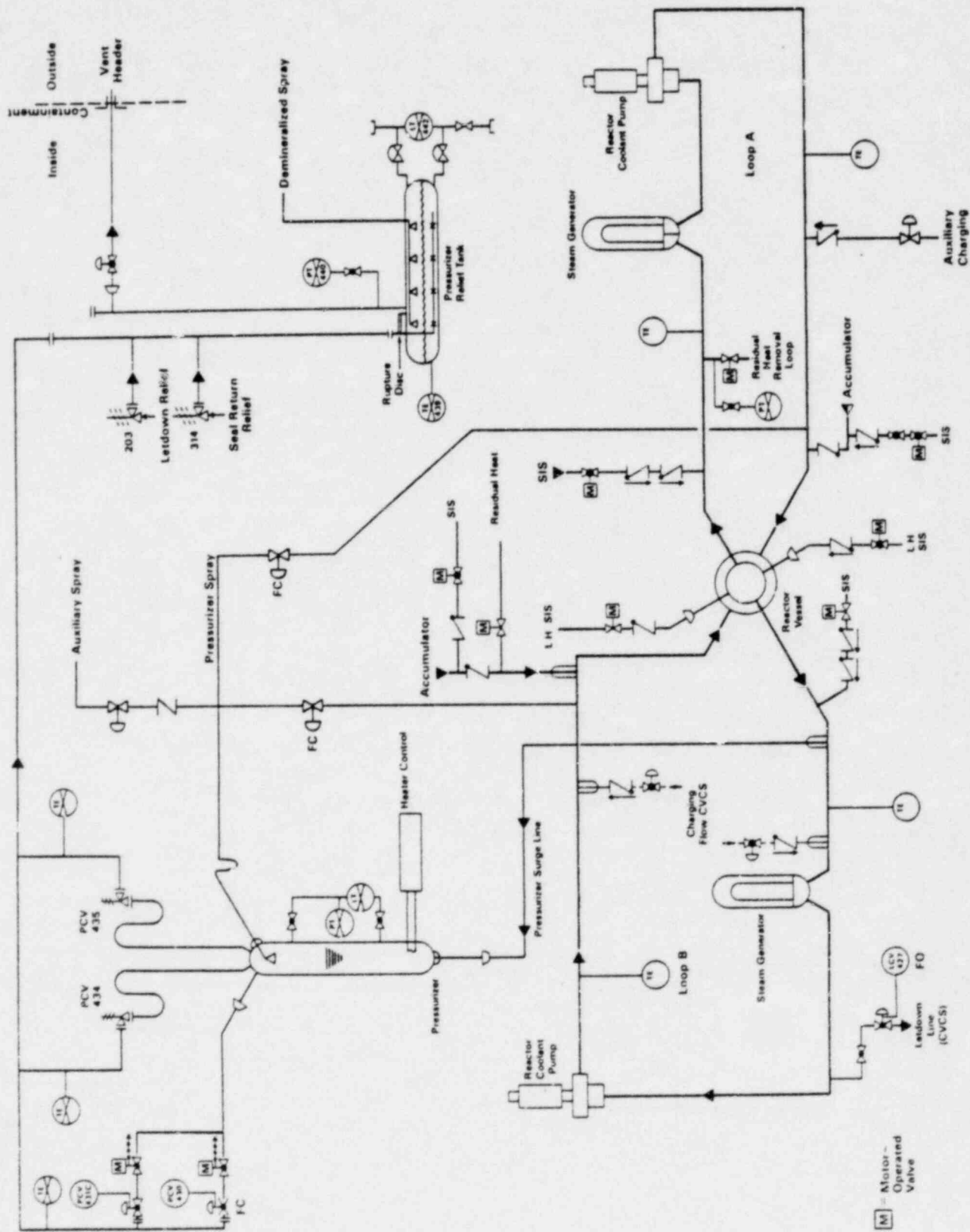
were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript;
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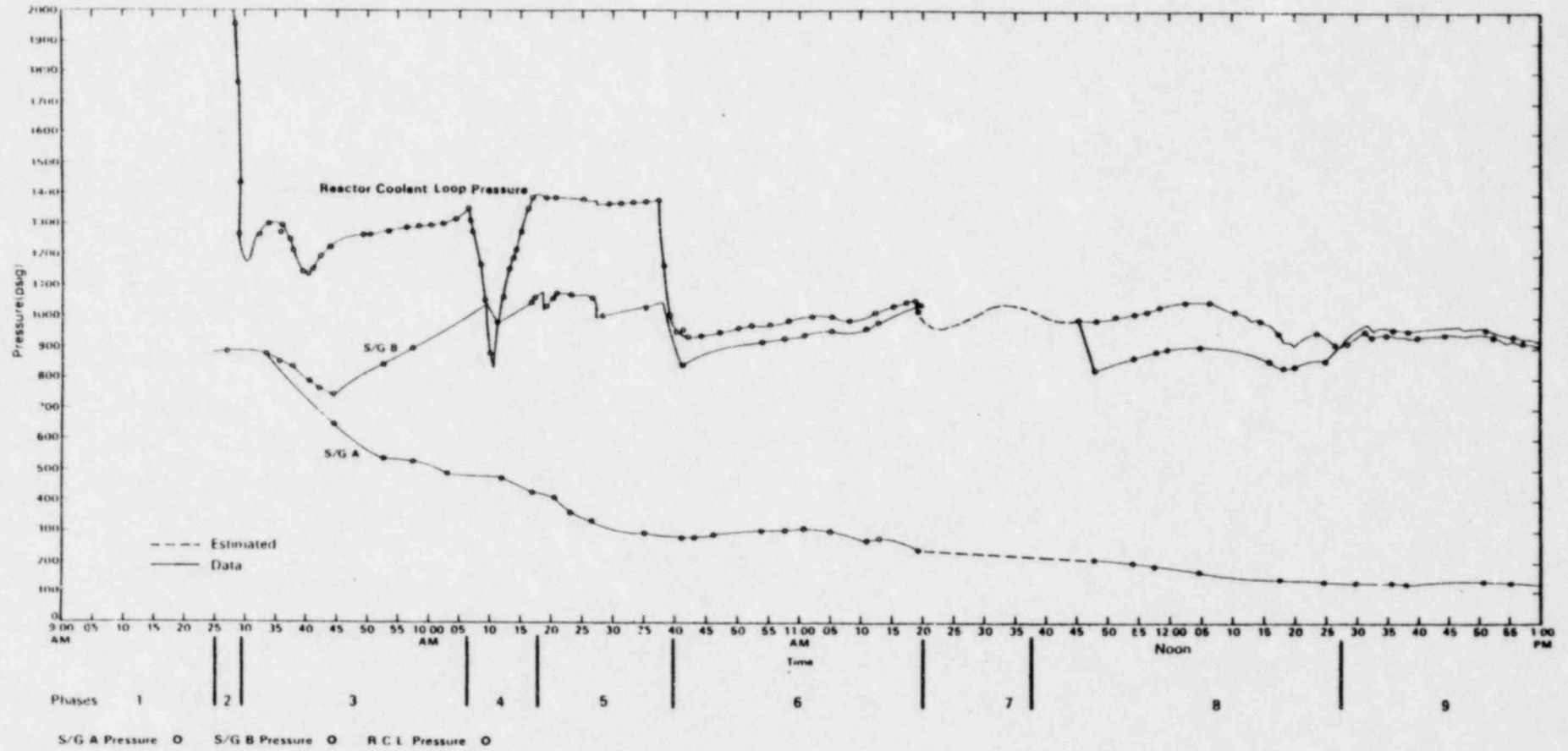
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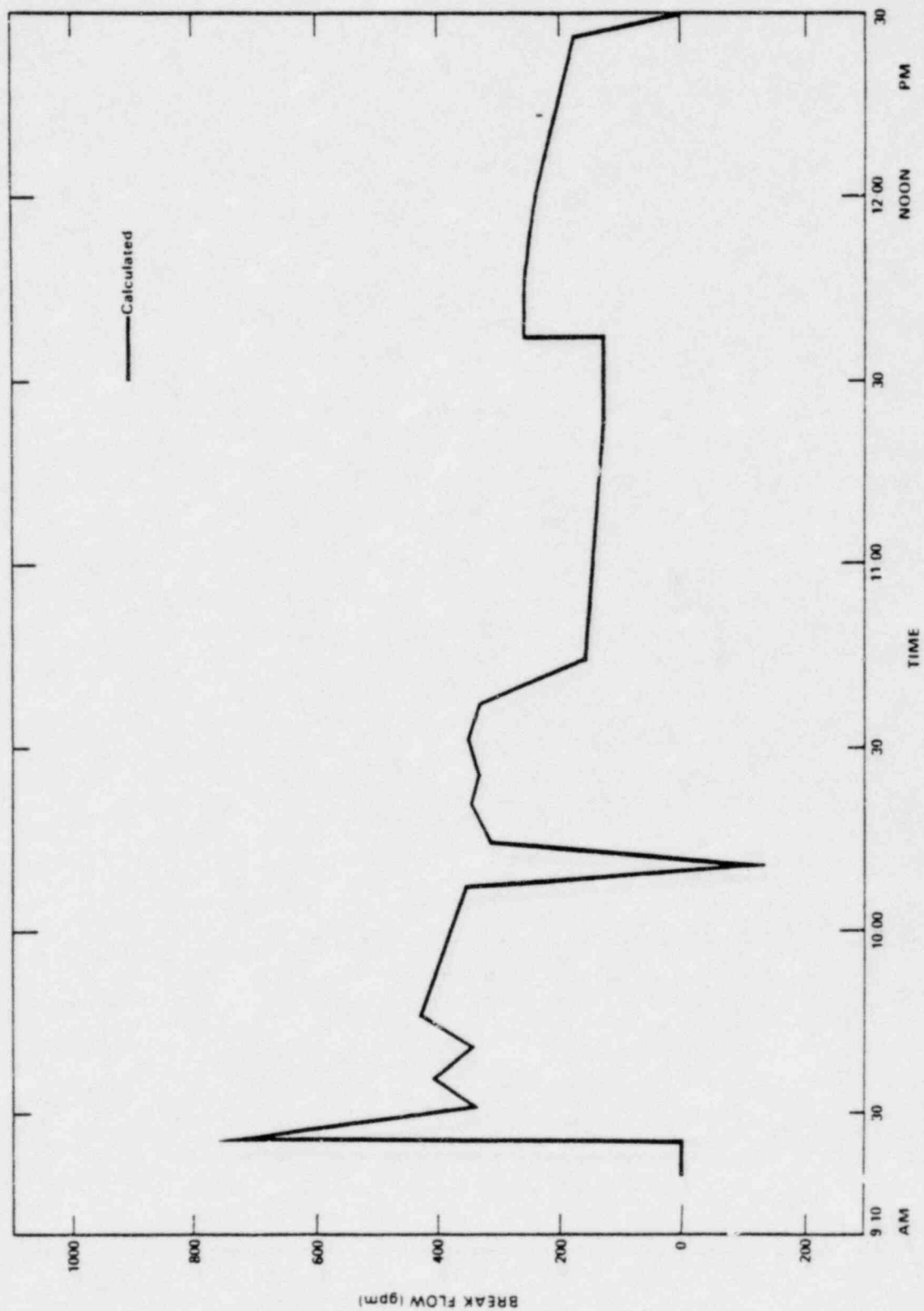
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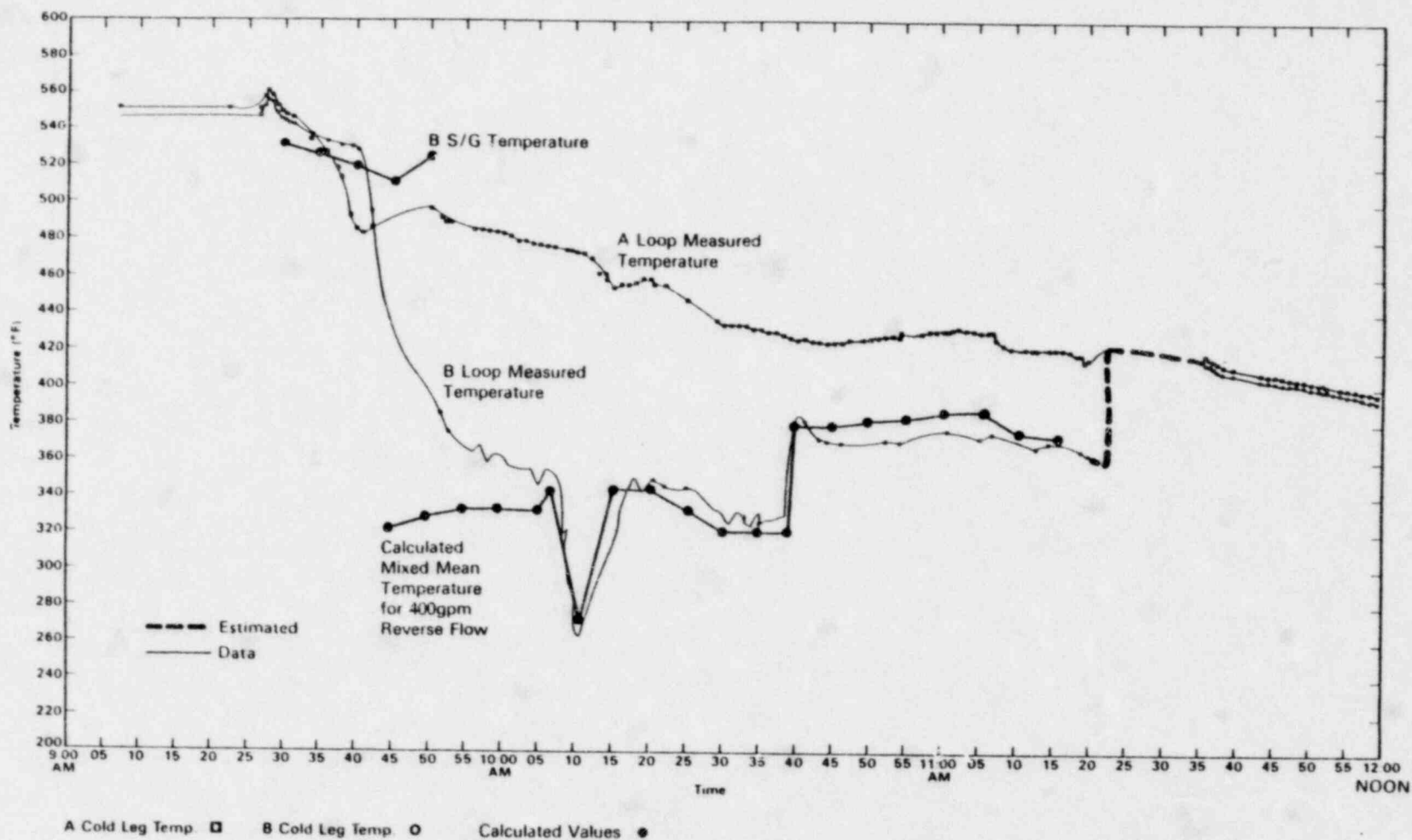
SLIDE 1 Ginna Nuclear Power Plant piping and instrumentation diagram



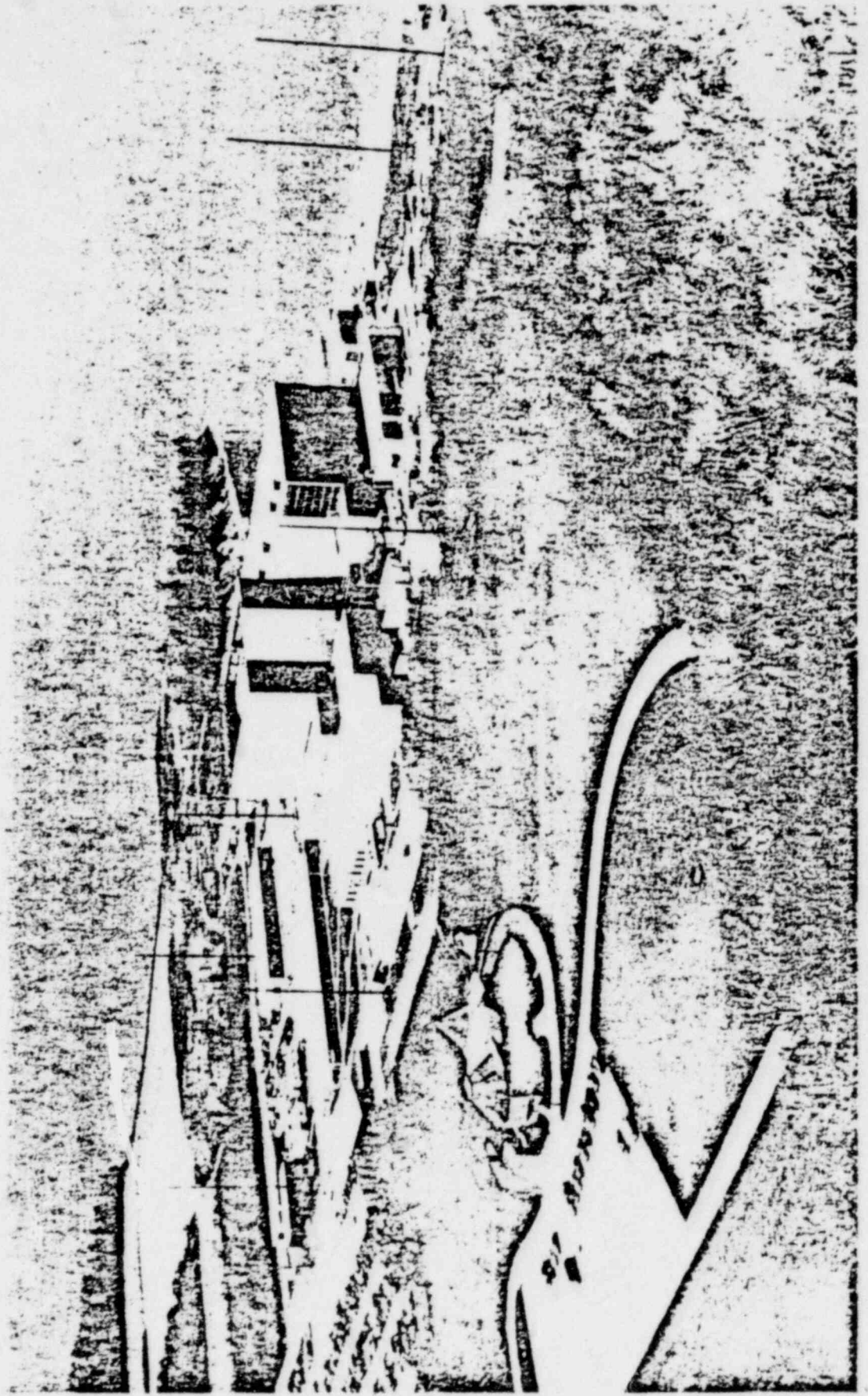
SLIDE 3 Reactor coolant system and steam generator pressure response as a function of time, January 25, 1982



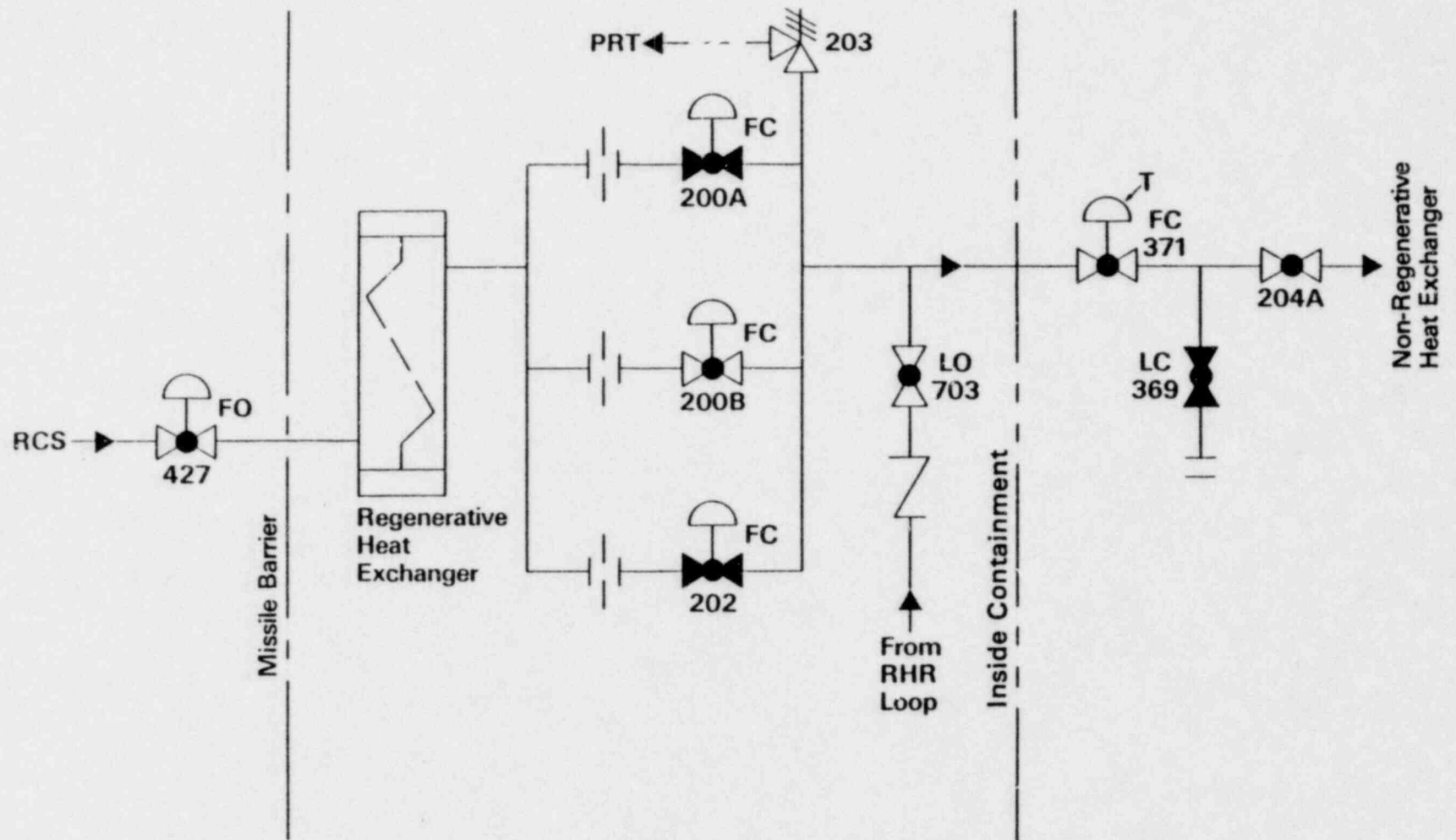
SLIDE 4 Steam generator tube leakage as a function of time, January 25, 1982



SLIDE 5 Reactor coolant loop cold-leg temperature compared with calculated values, January 25, 1982

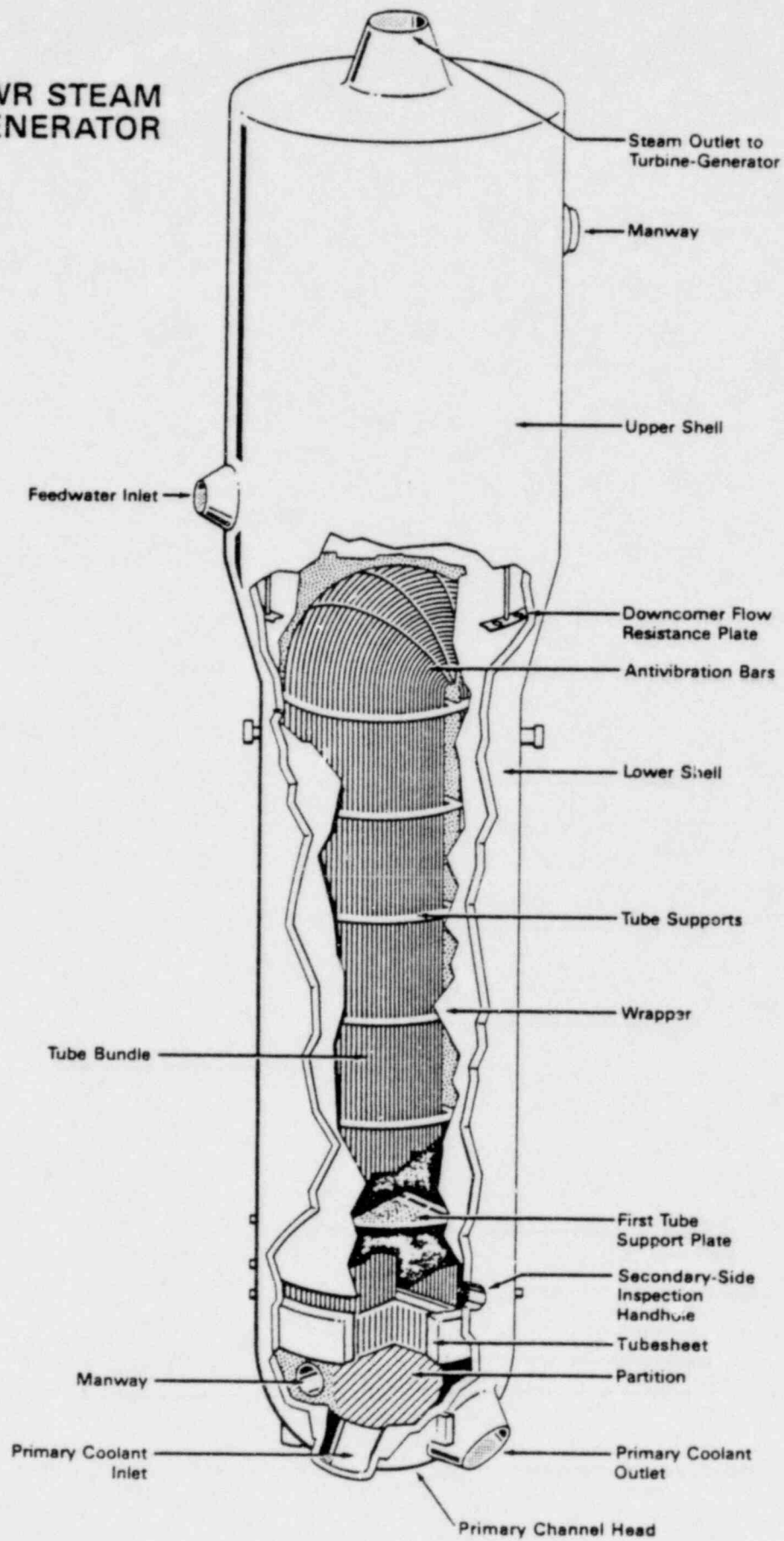


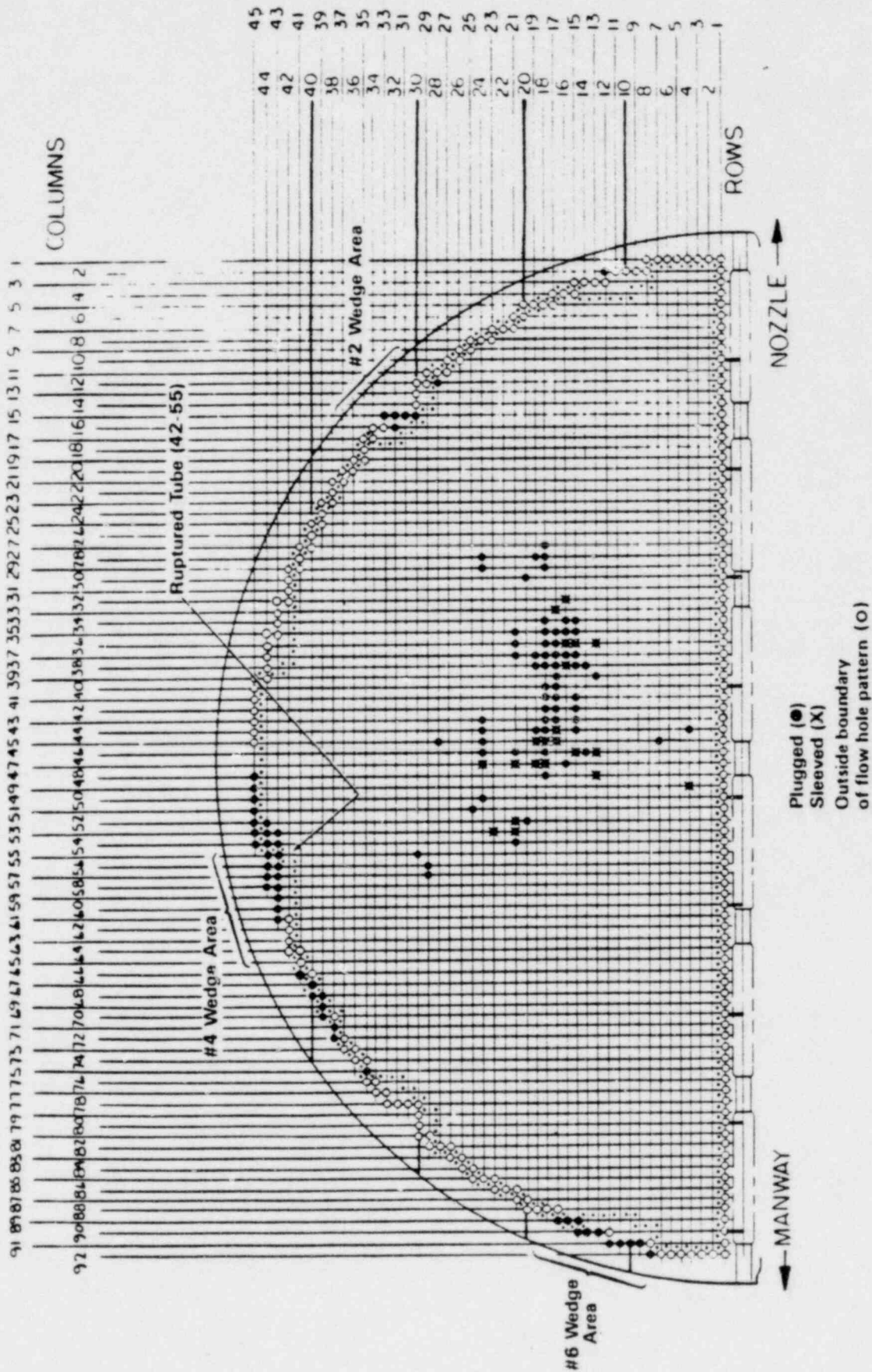
SLIDE 6 R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant



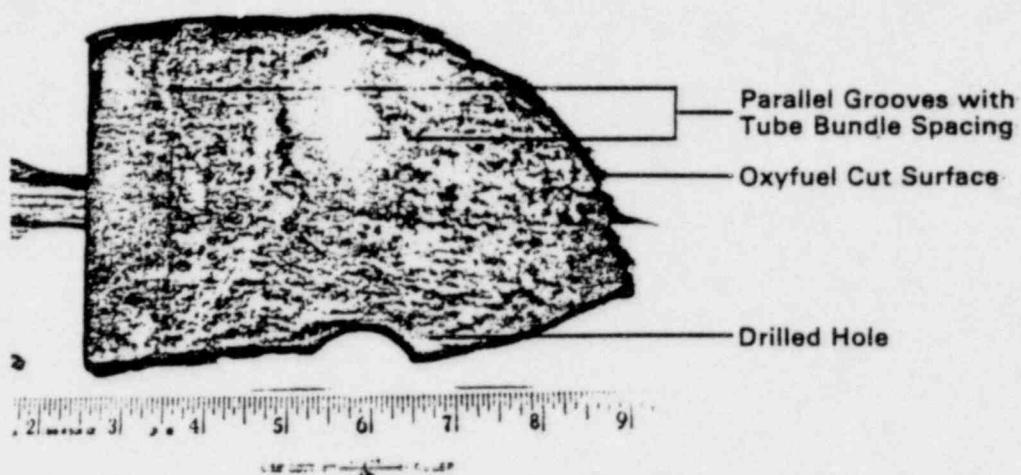
SLIDE 7 Diagram of letdown line isolation and relief valves

PWR STEAM GENERATOR

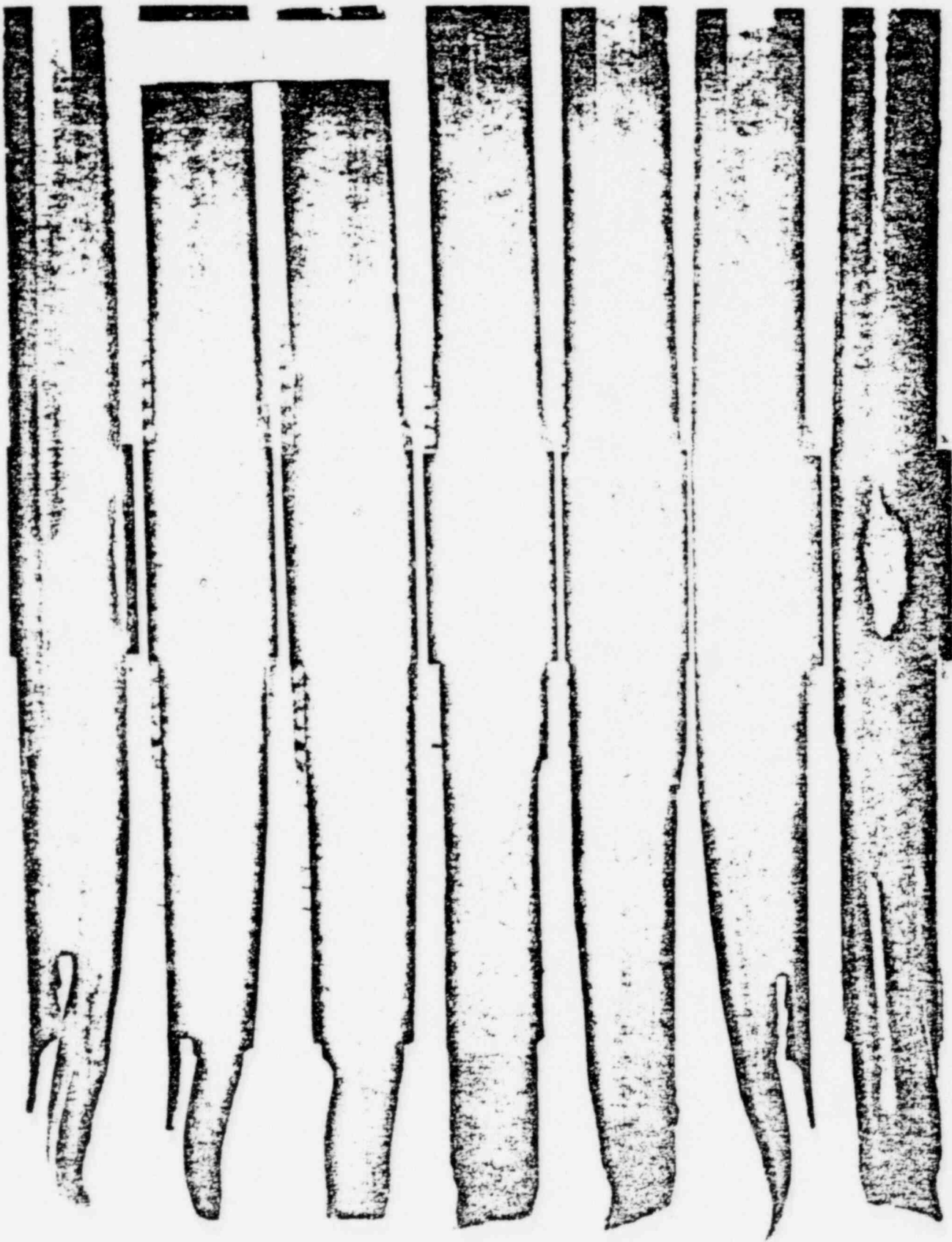




SLIDE 9 Ginna B steam generator hot-leg tube sheet map before event of January 25, 1982



SLIDE 10 Large foreign object removed from hot leg of B steam generator ($\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick)



SLIDE 11 Radial views of tube R44C55 showing first 9 in. above tubesheet. Tube detached from remainder of tube in tubesheet. White dot points outward.

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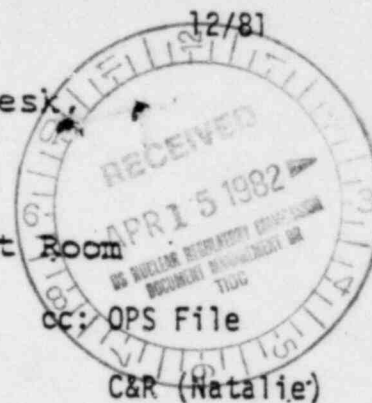
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Evaluation of Kinna Event

MEETING DATE:

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