



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

AEOD/N202

JAN 21 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Leonard I. Cobb, Director
Division of Fuel Facilities, Materials
and Safeguards, IE

FROM: — C. J. Heltemes, Jr., Deputy Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

SUBJECT: BUILDUP OF URANIUM-BEARING SLUDGE IN WASTE RETENTION TANKS

AEOD has written an evaluation of an event at the Westinghouse fuel fabrication facility in Columbia, South Carolina. The event consisted of the unanticipated finding of uranium-bearing sludge in large waste retention tanks.

Although there were no consequences of this event, we believe it was significant, not only because the event may represent a compromise of criticality control, but also because the event was at least the second event of its kind.

We recommend that IE issue an information notice to applicable licensees detailing this type of event to provide formal written feedback to the licensees.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Kathleen Black of my staff.

C. J. Heltemes, Jr.
C. J. Heltemes, Jr., Deputy Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
JGDavis, NMSS
RECunningham, NMSS
GPage, NMSS
GBindinger, NMSS
GTerry, NMSS
LHigginbotham, IE
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