

GARY A. FRANKS
5th District, Connecticut

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Subcommittee on
Health, Safety, and Environment
Energy and Power

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE
ON WELFARE REFORM



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 24, 1994

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Mr. Ivan Selin, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Selin:

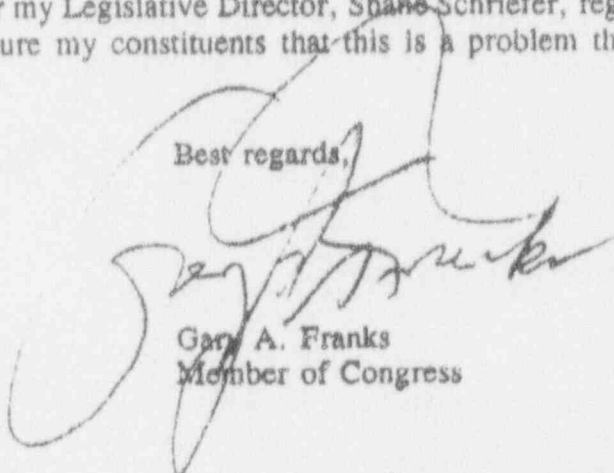
It has come to my attention that the nuclear industry is still using a piece of equipment the Defense Department found faulty three years ago.

In 1991, the Department of Defense revised their screw thread specifications to eliminate a flawed gaging system that was responsible for acceptance of dimensionally non-conforming product that resulted in several accidents with loss of life. The flawed gaging is called System 21 or Go-No Go gaging. I understand that System 21 is still being used throughout many industries. The U.S. automotive industry eliminated use of this gaging several years ago and adopted use of System 22 measurement to ensure the proper fitting of the nuts and bolts being used.

I would like to know if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has addressed this safety issue in the nuclear energy plants throughout the United States. My concern lies in the problem that only a few plants may be aware of the problems with the System 21 gage.

Please feel free to contact me or my Legislative Director, Shane Schriefer, regarding this issue. I would like to be able to assure my constituents that this is a problem that is being corrected, not an ongoing one.

Best regards,


Gary A. Franks
Member of Congress

GAF:sts

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UNITED STATES
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 28, 1994

The Honorable Gary A. Franks
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515-0705

Dear Congressman Franks:

I am responding to your letter of February 24, 1994, to Chairman Selin concerning the use of certain equipment for identifying dimensionally nonconforming fasteners in the nuclear power industry. We are quite familiar with the controversy surrounding the use of System 21 for thread gauging as a means of identifying dimensionally nonconforming fasteners. Although System 22 verifies additional thread characteristics such as the pitch diameter, the NRC staff does not consider System 21 or the use of go-no-go gauges to be inappropriate for accepting certain fastener threads based on the following discussion.

Because of an increase in the number of bolting failures during the 1970s, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) established a generic safety issue on bolting in the early 1980s to study the potential safety implication of these failures. The primary causes of these failures were stress corrosion cracking of overly hard fasteners, boric acid corrosion of steel fasteners, and metal fatigue. We have found no evidence to indicate that the failures were directly attributable to dimensionally nonconforming fasteners.

DATE	03/15/94		/ /94		03/14/94		03/14/94			
COPY	YES	NO	YES	NO		YES	NO			
OFFICE	ADT/NRR*		DD/NRR		D:NRR		OCA		EDO	
NAME	ATHadani		FMiragha		Russell				JTaylor	
DATE	03/16/94		3/22/94		3/23/94		3/21/94		3/21/94	
COPY	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

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