



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
795 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

FEB 7 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Dircks, Executive Director for Operations
FROM: James G. Keppler, Regional Administrator, Region III
SUBJECT: ZIMMER - WELDER QUALIFICATION ISSUE

Based upon a briefing I received from OI recently on the status of the Zimmer investigation, I see a need to supplement and clarify certain information provided in Chairman Palladino's October 20, 1982 letter to Congressman Udall and the Zimmer November Monthly Status Report concerning the subject of welder qualifications at Zimmer.

By way of background, on July 9, 1982, NRC staff members met with representatives of CG&E and Kaiser to obtain the findings of their review of welder qualifications at the Zimmer nuclear plant. During this meeting, NRC did not agree with the conclusion reached by CG&E that nineteen of approximately 460 onsite welders were not qualified. The NRC inspection during the following week brought into question the qualifications of about 200 welders. Of these, approximately 100 had to be requalified to continue construction.

Subsequent to that meeting, on several occasions, Dr. Henry Myers expressed the concern that NRC may not have been given all pertinent information known by CG&E and Kaiser at the time of the meeting. He specifically made reference to a document of some 170 pages that he had been told existed at a July 8 meeting between CG&E and Kaiser and was not made available to the NRC staff at the July 9 meeting. We told Dr. Myers that we believed CG&E and Kaiser had provided the NRC all pertinent information concerning welder qualifications at this meeting. However, Region III made inquiries of some of the attendees at that meeting and they failed to shed any light on such a document. As a result of Dr. Myers persistence in this matter, Region III requested CG&E (in an October 27, 1982, letter pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f)) to provide a list of all reports or other documents that were prepared in preparation for the July 8 and 9, 1982 meetings.

Concurrently, at one of the Commission meetings on Zimmer shortly before the November 12, 1982 Order, OI reported that they had received information concerning a document that resembled the one Dr. Myers was seeking and that Region III reportedly had that documentation. I indicated that I would look into this matter.

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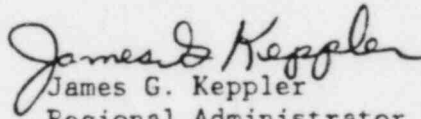
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It was subsequently learned that the documentation in question had been given to the NRC resident inspectors on July 12, 1982 during inspection activities concerning welder qualifications. However, Region III personnel did not recognize these papers as the document Dr. Myers was pursuing. The NRC Zimmer staff did not find anything in these papers that they did not know at the time of the July 9, 1982 meeting through a review of documentation then available to them.

At a January 20, 1983, debriefing with OI, I personally learned that OI had received statements that attendees at the July 9, 1982 meeting had been instructed not to voluntarily disclose the existence of the document in question or provide it to the NRC unless it was specifically requested. While the document in question did not contain anything unknown to the NRC at the meeting, the specific reason for its not being given to NRC at the meeting is being investigated by OI.

In order to provide appropriate clarification of this matter, I suggest a copy of this memorandum be provided to the Commission and Dr. Myers.


James G. Keppler
Regional Administrator

cc: J. Fitzgerald, OI
R. C. DeYoung, IE
PDR