



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

May 28, 1991

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I regret that my response to your April 26, 1991, letter did not satisfactorily address your concerns about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff informing the Subcommittee staff of weld record deficiencies found at the Seabrook Station. I agree that we should have notified the Subcommittee staff of this issue in a more timely manner. The staff has been counseled to assure that in the future you will be informed in a timely manner of any discrepancies which are discovered during the Seabrook weld record review.

I believe the Subcommittee staff is currently being informed of developments in a prompt manner. Within the past month, New Hampshire Yankee has initiated its program to review their records and develop a list of all Pullman-Higgins field welds for which radiography was code-required and compare this list with the contents of their QA records vault. The Subcommittee staff has been kept apprised of this project and has received copies of the procedures governing its operation. To date, two radiograph record discrepancies have been identified by the licensee. The Subcommittee staff received prompt verbal notification of the deficiencies and was provided copies of the written submittals from the licensee as we received them. We will continue to promptly provide the Subcommittee staff with the results of the records review currently underway at the Seabrook Station.

It should be noted that none of the record deficiencies identified to date has brought into question the integrity of any weld and there has been no technical basis for the NRC to question the safety of the plant. Be assured, however, that if such information is discovered, the Commission will take appropriate action to assure adequate protection of public health and safety.

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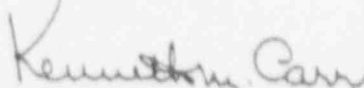
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The Commission and the NRC staff are committed to providing our oversight committees with the information in our possession which they may need to perform their functions.

Commissioner Remick did not participate in the preparation of this response.

Sincerely,


Kenneth M. Carr

cc: The Honorable Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.
The Honorable Bob Smith