



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 10, 1994

The Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Roth:

I am responding to your memorandum of October 13, 1994, which forwarded a letter from Frederick Harpster, one of your constituents, regarding government oversight of Salem Nuclear Generating Station.

I can assure you and Mr. Harpster that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is closely monitoring plant operations at the Salem station. The NRC has three resident inspectors located at Salem whose sole responsibility is to assess plant safety. This resident staff is supplemented, as required, by inspectors from the NRC's Region I office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, and NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Because of recent performance issues, the NRC has increased regulatory attention to Public Service Electric and Gas Company's (PSE&G) operation and maintenance of the Salem Station.

The NRC has also taken enforcement action on several occasions to emphasize the importance that the NRC places on effective and safe operating practices, and proper adherence to regulatory requirements. Most recently, on October 5, 1994, the NRC issued a proposed civil penalty of \$500,000 following an April 7, 1994, event at Salem Unit 1. This event occurred when marsh grass caused clogging of the circulating water system resulting in an automatic reactor shutdown and two automatic actuations of the safety injection system. The proposed civil penalty was issued to emphasize the importance of aggressive management of the Salem station to ensure that (1) management expectations are established, effectively communicated, and followed by the station staff, (2) problems are promptly identified and corrected, and (3) operations supervisors maintain appropriate command and control. This event was the fourth significant event at the Salem station since 1991.

In response to the recent occurrences, one of which was cited by Mr. Harpster, PSE&G has been acting to replace or repair equipment that contributed to, or was a factor in, station performance problems and to correct operating practices that need improvement. PSE&G has also reassigned or replaced supervisory and technical personnel in an effort to improve overall station performance. The NRC, with its increased regulatory attention to Salem, will continue to monitor the results of these efforts.

210105

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

9411170296 XA

11/22/94

DF01

November 10, 1994

The Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.

- 2 -

I assure you that the NRC staff will continue to closely monitor plant operations and will not hesitate to take any necessary regulatory actions.

I trust this letter will satisfy your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,

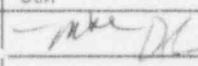
Original signed by  
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION

See attached list

\*Previously Concurred

OFFICE	PDI-2/LA	PDI-2/PM	PDI-2/D	TECH ED*	DRPE/D*
NAME	MO'Brien*	LOlshan*	JStolz*	MMejac*	SVarga*
DATE	11/02/94	11/02/94	11/02/94	10/25/94	10/24/94
OFFICE	ADP	NRR/D	EDG	OCA	
NAME	RZimmerman*	WRussell*	JTaylor		
DATE	11/04/94	11/04/94	11/9/94	11/01/94	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DOCUMENT NAME: A:\SA10560.GRN

2  
Distribution: Letter to Senator William V. Roth, Jr., Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Docket File (50-272/311) w/incoming

PUBLIC *w/incoming-its*

EDO #10560

EDO Reading

JTaylor

JMilhoan

HThompson

JBlaha

WRussell/FMiraglia

TTMartin, RI

RZimmerman

AThadani

DCrutchfield

PDI-2 Reading (w/incoming)

SVarga

JZwolinski

JStolz

OGC

OPA

OCA

SECY #CRC-94-1058

NRR Mail Room (EDO #10560) w/incoming, 012G-18

NOlson

LDodley

LOlshan w/incoming

MO'Brien

CAnderson, RGN-I

# ACTION

## EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM:

DUE: 11/<sup>15</sup>~~01~~/94

EDO CONTROL: 0010560

DOC DT: 10/13/94

FINAL REPLY:

Sen. William V. Roth, Jr.

TO:

OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 94-1058

Executive Director

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM FREDERICK HARPSTER RE  
SALEM NUCLEAR FACILITY

Taylor  
Milhoan  
Thompson  
Blaha  
TTMartin, RI

DATE: 10/19/94

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Russell

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

*C. Russell*  
*11-4-94*

NRR RECEIVED:

OCTOBER 19, 1994

NRR ACTION:

DRPE:VARGA

NRR ROUTING:

RUSSELL  
MIRAGLIA  
THADANI  
ZIMMERMAN  
CRUTCHFIELD  
BOHRER

ACTION

DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

BY *Oct 26, '94*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-94-1058 LOGGING DATE: Oct 18 94  
ACTION OFFICE: EDO  
AUTHOR: SEN WILLIAM ROTH  
AFFILIATION: U.S. SENATE  
ADDRESSEE: OCA  
LETTER DATE: Oct 13 94 FILE CODE: IDR-5 SALEM  
SUBJECT: SALEM NUCLEAR FACILITY  
ACTION: Signature of EDO  
DISTRIBUTION: OCA TO ACK, DSB  
SPECIAL HANDLING: NONE  
CONSTITUENT: FREDERICK HARPSTER  
NOTES:  
DATE DUE: Nov 1 94  
SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:  
AFFILIATION: