



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

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Box 26-01  
folder 19*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Gus C. Lainas, Chief, Containment Systems Branch,  
Division of Systems Safety, NRR  
Walter R. Butler, Chief, Plant Systems Branch, Division  
of Operating Reactors, NRR

FROM: Karl V. Seyfrit, Assistant Director for Technical  
Programs, Division of Reactor Operations Inspection, IE

SUBJECT: VENTING OF CONTAINMENT LINER WELD CHANNELS

Weld channels are installed on the inner side of the containment liner along inaccessible weld seams. This allows for local testing of the liner weld integrity in the future if such a test were needed to locate a leak detected during CILRT's. The Region I office in the review of test procedures has brought to our attention the concern for venting the weld channels during the periodic integrated leakage rate test. The concern is that the channels present an artificial leakage barrier during Type A testing, while venting would expose the liner welds to containment pressure. There are no indications that channels have been designed to accept the pressure (stresses) of the Design Basis Accident so that their integrity cannot be assured post-LOCA.

The question has come up in the review of test procedures for an operating plant, Three Mile Island-1. It is our understanding that some plants have a specific commitment to vent the weld channels during Type A testing though Three Mile Island-1 does not.

It is realized that a position will have differing implications for new plants and for those in operation or under construction. Therefore, Containment Systems and Plant Systems Branches are requested to establish a position in regard to the venting of weld channels during Type A testing.

If there are any questions, please contact us.

*CSB - Stu Brown*

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