

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

August 17, 1989

Dear Senator Grassley:

Enclosed with your July 24, 1989 letter to Chairman Kenneth M. Carr of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was a letter from one of your constituents, Mr. John T. Shaff. Mr. Shaff is concerned that a containment modification to install hardened vents is not being immediately implemented at Quad Cities Station, Units 1 and 2. The Commission has carefully evaluated this matter and has concluded that it need not immediately require all plants with Mark 1 containments to install hardened vents.

However, July 11, 1989, the Commission directed the NRC staff:

... to initiate plant-specific backfit analyses for each of the Mark I plants to evaluate the efficacy of requiring the installation of hardened vents at such plants. This should be accomplished taking into consideration the individual plant designs and their respective capabilities to withstand overpressurization events. Where the backfit analysis supports imposition of such a requirement, and after consideration of information from licensees, the staff should proceed accordingly with the imposition of a requirement that such a plant install a reliable, hardened vent. The objective should be to complete this process, including installation of hardened vents where justified, within three years. The staff's backfitting schedule should include consideration of the refueling outage schedule for each plant in order to ensure that reasonable plant implementation dates are met.

The direction provided by the Commission, which the NRC staff is following, is consistent with the NRC rule pertaining to backfit requirements. The purpose of the backfit rule is to assure that modifications imposed by the staff will result in a substantial increase in the overall protection of the public health and safety and that the costs of implementation for the licensee are justified in view of the increased protection. This approach protects both the health and safety of the public and prevents unwarranted expenditures by the utilities and ultimately their rate-payers.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By:
James M. Taylor
James M. Taylor
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

Similar letters sent to:
The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senator
131 E. 4th Street
314B Federal Building
Davenport, IA 52801

The Honorable Tom Tauke
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

(Document Name - GT 4646)

*PREVIOUSLY CONCURRED

*PDIII-2
TRoss:km
8/7/89

*PDIII-2
LLuthe
8/3/89

*PDIII-2
LOlshan
8/3/89

*Tech Editor
RSanders
8/3/89

*(A)AD:DRSP35
MVirgilio
8/3/89

*(A)D:DRSP
GHolahan
8/7/89

*ADP:NRR
JPartlow
8/8/89

*ADP:ONRR
JSniezek
8/ /89

*ADP:ONRR
TMurley
8/ /89

*(A)EDD
JTaylor
8/ /89

DFol

1/

8/17/89

890817 8908240219
PDR ADOCK 03000254
PDC

DISTRIBUTION

Docket file (50-254/265)

NRC PDRs

EDO4642

EDO r/f

TMurley/JSniezek

GHolahan

MVirgilio

OGC

JTaylor

DMossburg, PMAS (EDO4642/4635/4647) w/cy of incoming

PDIII-2 r/f w/cy of incoming

LLuther

BSiegel

TRoss w/cy of incoming

LOlshan

MKrebs

JPartlow

DCrutchfield

FMiraglia

FGillespie

SECY

PA

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Enclosed with your July 20, 1989 letter to Chairman Kenneth M. Carr of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was a letter from one of your constituents, Mr. John T. Shaff. Mr. Shaff is concerned that a containment modification to install hardened vents is not being immediately implemented at Quad Cities Station, Units 1 and 2.

On July 11, 1989, the Commission directed the NRC staff:

... to initiate plant-specific backfit analyses for each of the Mark I plants to evaluate the efficacy of requiring the installation of hardened vents at such plants. This should be accomplished taking into consideration the individual plant designs and their respective capabilities to withstand overpressurization events. Where the backfit analysis supports imposition of such a requirement, and after consideration of information from licensees, the staff should proceed accordingly with the imposition of a requirement that such a plant install a reliable, hardened vent. The objective should be to complete this process, including installation of hardened vents where justified, within three years. The staff's backfitting schedule should include consideration of the refueling outage schedule for each plant in order to ensure that reasonable plant implementation dates are met.

The direction provided by the Commission, which the NRC staff is following, is consistent with the NRC policy with regard to backfit requirements. The purpose of this policy is to assure that only those modifications that have safety significance are implemented. This approach protects both the health and safety of the public and prevents unwarranted expenditures by the utilities and ultimately their rate-payers.

Sincerely,

James M. Taylor
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senator
131 E. 4th Street
314B Federal Building
Davenport, IA 52801

The Honorable Tom Tauke
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

(Document Name - GT 4646)

*PREVIOUSLY CONCURRED

*PDIII-2 TRoss:km 8/7/89	*PDIII-2 LLuther 8/3/89	*PDIII-2 LOlshan 8/3/89	*Tech Editor RSanders 8/3/89	*(A)AD:DRSP35 MVirgilio 8/3/89
*(A)D:DRSP GHolahan 8/7/89	*ADP:NRR JPartlow 8/8/89	DD/ONRR JSniezek 8/ /89	DONRR TMurley 8/ /89	(A)EDO JTaylor 8/ /89

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
ATTN: Paul M. Collison
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Enclosed with your July 20, 1989 letter to Chairman Kenneth M. Carr of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was a letter from one of your constituents, Mr. John T. Shaff. Mr. Shaff is concerned that a containment modification to install hardened vents is not being immediately implemented at Quad Cities Station, Units 1 and 2.

On July 11, 1989, the Commission directed the NRC staff:

... to initiate plant-specific backfit analyses for each of the Mark I plants to evaluate the efficacy of requiring the installation of hardened vents at such plants. This should be accomplished taking into consideration the individual plant designs and their respective capabilities to withstand overpressurization events. Where the backfit analysis supports imposition of such a requirement, and after consideration of information from licensees, the staff should proceed accordingly with the imposition of a requirement that such a plant install a reliable, hardened vent. The objective should be to complete this process, including installation of hardened vents where justified, within three years. The staff's backfitting schedule should include consideration of the refueling outage schedule for each plant in order to ensure that reasonable plant implementation dates are met.

The direction provided by the Commission, which the NRC staff is following, is consistent with the NRC policy with regard to backfit requirements. The purpose of this policy is to assure that only those modifications that have safety significance are implemented. This approach protects both the health and safety of the public and prevents unwarranted expenditures by the utilities and ultimately their rate-payers.

Sincerely,

James M. Taylor
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

This correspondence addresses policy issues previously resolved by the Commission, transmits factual information, or restates Commission policy.

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Tom Tauke
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
131 E. 4th Street
314B Federal Building
Davenport, IA, 52801

*PREVIOUSLY CONCURRED

*PDIII-2
TRoss:km
8/7/89

*PDIII-2
LLuther
8/3/89

*PDIII-2
LOlshan
8/3/89

*Tech Editor
RSanders
8/3/89

*(A)AD:DRSP35
MVirgilio
8/3/89

*(A)D:DRSP
GHolahan
8/7/89

ADP:NR
JPartlow
8/8/89

DD/ONRR
JSniezek
8/ /89

DONRR
TMurley
8/ /89

(A)EDO
JTaylor
8/ /89

Honorable Charles E. Grassley

- 2 -

The direction provided by the Commission, which the NRC staff is following, is consistent with the NRC policy with regard to backfit requirements. The purpose of this policy is to assure that only those modifications that have safety significance are implemented. This approach protects both the health and safety of the public and prevents unwarranted expenditures by the utilities and ultimately their rate-payers.

Sincerely,

James M. Taylor
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION

Docket file (50-254/265)

NRC PDRs

EDO4642

EDO r/f

TMurley/JSniezek

GHolahan

MVirgilio

OGC

JTaylor

DMossburg, PMAS (EDO4642) w/cy of incoming

PDIII-2 r/f w/cy of incoming

LLuther

BSiegel

TRoss w/cy of incoming

LOlshan

MKrebs

*Partlow
Miraglia
Cuthbert
Billings*

This correspondence addresses policy issues previously resolved by the Commission, transmits factual information, or restates Commission policy.

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Tom Tauke
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
131 E. 4th Street
314B Federal Building
Davenport, IA, 52801

*PREVIOUSLY CONCURRED

PDIII-2
TRoss:km
8/7/89

*PDIII-2
LLuther
8/3/89

*PDIII-2
LOlshan
8/3/89

*Tech Editor
RSanders
8/3/89

*(A)AD:DRSP35
MVirgilio
8/3/89

(A)D:DRSP
GHolahan
8/7/89

ADP:NRR
JPartlow
8/ /89

(A)DONRR
JSniezek
8/ /89

DONRR
TMurley
8/ /89

(A)EDO
JTaylor
8/ /89

Honorable Charles E. Grassley

- 2 -

The guidance provided by the Commission, which the NRC staff is following, is consistent with the NRC policy with regard to backfit requirements. The purpose of this policy is to assure that only those modifications that have safety significance are implemented. This approach protects both the health and safety of the public and prevents needless expenditures by the utilities.

Sincerely,

James M. Taylor
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION

Docket file (50-254/265)

NRC PDRs

EDO4642

EDO r/f

TMurley/JSniezek

GHolahan

MVirigilio

OGC

JTaylor

DMossburg, PMAS (EDO4642) w/cy of incoming

PDIII-2 r/f w/cy of incoming

LLuther

BSiegel

TRoss w/cy of incoming

LOlshan

MKrebs

This correspondence addresses policy issues previously resolved by the Commission, transmits factual information, or restates Commission policy.

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Tom Tauke
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

PDIII-2
BSiegel:km
/ / 89

PDIII-2
LLuther *LL*
8/3/89

PDIII-2
LOlshan
8/3/89

Tech Editor
R. Sanders
8/3/89

#483
(A)AD:DRSP35
MVirigilio
8/3/89

(A)D:DRSP
GHolahan
/ / 89

ADP:NRR
JPartlow
/ / 89

DONRR
JSniezek
/ / 89

DONRR
TMurley
/ / 89

(A)EDO
JTaylor
/ / 89



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
EDO Principal Correspondence Control

ACTION

FROM:

DUE: 08/14/89

EDO CONTROL: 0004642

DOC DT: 07/24/89

FINAL REPLY:

Sen. Charles E. Grassley

TO:

CA

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

** GRN **

CRC NO: 89-0698

Executive Director

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM JOHN T. SHAFF RE FLAW IN
CONTAINMENT SYSTEM AT COMMONWEALTH EDISON PLANTS

DATE: 08/01/89

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Murley

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Mark envelope Attn: Paul M. Collison.
Ref. EDO 4635.

NRR RECEIVED: AUGUST 1, 1989

ACTION; DRSP:HOLAHAN

NRR ROUTING: MURLEY/SNIEZEK

PARTLOW

MIRAGLIA

CRUTCHFIELD

GILLESPIE

MOSSBURG

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-89-0698 LOGGING DATE: Jul 31 89

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: C.E. Grassley
AFFILIATION: UNITED STATES SENATE

LETTER DATE: Jul 24 89 FILE CODE:

SUBJECT: Constituent's inquiry regarding containment system
at Quad Cities

ACTION: Direct Reply

DISTRIBUTION:

SPECIAL HANDLING: OCA to Ack.

NOTES: John T. Shaff

DATE DUE: Aug 14 89

SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION:

EDO---004642

Rec'd Off. EDO

Date 7-31-89

Time 3:30