



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 3, 2022

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated April 8, 2022. In that letter, you raised concerns about a recent report issued by the NRC's Office of the Inspector General (OIG), regarding inspections at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCNPP).

The NRC staff has determined that the agency's inspection policy and COVID-19 guidance were appropriately followed. The staff found no evidence to suggest that the auxiliary feedwater pipe corrosion hidden under metal jacketing material reasonably should have been identified by NRC inspectors before the leak occurred. The event in question resulted in a very low safety significance finding. Based on this review, I have confidence in the inspectors at DCNPP, in our inspection program, and that there is reasonable assurance that DCNPP is being operated safely. Nevertheless, the staff identified opportunities for improvement, such as inspector training on corrosion under insulation and refresher training on topics in the Inspection Manual, as well as a review of inspector qualifications for potential improvements. The staff also plans to review inspection manual documents, including the applicable inspection procedure discussed in the OIG inquiry, to ensure the requirements and related guidance are clear. The staff's review of the OIG inquiry, the staff's formal response to OIG, and specific responses to the questions raised in your letter are enclosed.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or have your staff contact Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. T. Hanson".

Christopher T. Hanson

Enclosure:  
As stated