

March 12, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Ronald N. Gardner, Chief
Electrical Engineering Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

FROM: J. E. Dyer */RA/*
Regional Administrator

SUBJECT: AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM CHARTER -
DAVIS BESSE REACTOR VESSEL HEAD MATERIAL LOSS

In response to preliminary information provided by the licensee on March 10, 2002, regarding the significant loss of pressure boundary material from the reactor vessel head, an augmented inspection team (AIT) is being sent to the Davis-Besse Plant. You are hereby designated as the AIT leader.

A. Basis

On March 6, 2002, during repair activities to control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) nozzles, the licensee identified an area of wastage in the reactor pressure vessel head surrounding the No. 3 CRDM nozzle. The licensee initially identified five CRDM nozzles that required repairs due to cracking in the J-groove welds found during the nozzle examinations required by Bulletin 2001-01. Wastage area in the head was discovered when the licensee removed the No. 3 CRDM nozzle, after the penetration tube unexpectedly moved during repair activities.

Because this was a significant unplanned degraded condition having potential generic safety implications, an AIT was initiated in accordance with NRC Management Directive 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program." The purpose of the AIT is to better understand the facts and circumstances related to the degradation of the reactor vessel head pressure boundary material. It is also to identify any precursor indications of this condition so that appropriate followup actions can be taken. All followup actions associated with the extent of condition, repairs/replacements, or corrective actions related to plant restart will be covered through other inspection activities.

CONTACT: John A. Grobe, Director, DRS
(630) 829-9700

B. Scope

Specifically, the augmented inspection team is expected to collect, analyze, and document factual information and evidence sufficiently to address the following:

1. The plant history of reactor coolant system operational leakage indications, including trends in unidentified leakage, containment air cooler fouling, containment radiation monitor readings, etc.
2. The plant history of reactor vessel head material condition issues, including control rod drive flange leakage or other sources of corrosive substances.
3. The plant history of reactor vessel head inspection, including visual inspections, ultrasonic testing, prior video-records of head examinations, reactor vessel head cleaning activities, and licensee action in response to generic correspondence for leakage and degradation of the reactor coolant system.
4. Characterization of all reactor vessel head wastage areas, including the best available geometric details of cavity volumes, surface conditions, surface contaminants, etc.
5. The probable cause(s) for the vessel head wastage.

C. Guidance

This memorandum designates you as the AIT leader. Your duties will be as described in Inspection Procedure 93800, "Augmented Inspection Team." The team composition has been discussed with you directly. During performance of the augmented inspection, designated team members are separated from their normal duties and report directly to you. The team is to emphasize fact-finding in its review of the circumstances surrounding the event, and it is not the responsibility of the team to examine the regulatory process, to determine whether NRC requirements were violated, to address licensee actions related to plant restart, or to address the applicability of generic safety concerns to other facilities. Safety concerns identified that are not directly related to the event should be reported to the Region III office for appropriate action.

The team will report to the site, conduct an entrance meeting, and begin inspection on Tuesday, March 12, 2002. Tentatively, the inspection should be completed by close of business March 22, 2002, with a report documenting the results of the inspection, including findings and conclusions, issued within 30 days of the public exit meeting. While the team is on site, you will provide daily status briefings to Region III management.

This Charter may be modified should the team develop significant new information that warrants review.

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