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For the purpose of rating the licensee's performance, the NRC's analysis for the degraded tube condition indicates that the risk was in the "red" range for the last year of operation with the original steam generators. The "red" finding is based on the degree of likelihood that a steam generator tube rupture, combined with operator errors and equipment malfunctions, might result in damage to the reactor core and release of large amounts of radioactive materials. The threshold for the "red" range is set at a very low level of risk, so that remedial action can be taken before there is any appreciable reduction in the assurance of public health and safety.

*Life*      *still reasonable*      *adequate protection at*

The effects of the tube rupture event that occurred on February 15, 2000 were inconsequential to the public, because the licensee effectively controlled the plant, keeping the reactor core from being damaged and keeping the amount of radioactivity released so low that it could not be measured off-site. The NRC's assessment of the event indicates that the likelihood of damaging the core and releasing large amounts of radioactivity was very low.

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