

February 27, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Brian W. Sheron, Associate Director  
Project Licensing and Technical Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

R. William Borchardt, Associate Director  
Inspections and Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: John A. Zwolinski, Director /RA/  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: CLOSEOUT OF STEAM GENERATOR ACTION PLAN ITEM 2.8.B -  
DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR NRR REQUEST AND RES REVIEW OF  
NRR SAFETY EVALUATIONS

In accordance with the Steam Generator Action Plan (SGAP), this memorandum to the NRR associate directors provides the closeout of SGAP Milestone 2.8.b, "Develop a process for NRR request and RES review of NRR safety evaluations." This item is derived from one of the recommendations contained in Section 7.4 of the Indian Point 2 Steam Generator Tube Failure Lessons-Learned Report (forwarded from W. Travers to the Commission in a memorandum dated November 1, 2000). The specific recommendation contained in the lessons-learned report is, "When NRR requests that RES perform an independent technical review of a staff's SE, NRR and RES should develop a process for handling the request and response."

This recommendation from the IP2 Lessons-Learned Task Group was a result of their review of NRR's February 28, 2000, request that RES perform an independent technical review of NRR's SE on the SG tube inspection interval extension for IP2. From the observations contained in Section 7 of the Task Group's report and from conversations with Task Group members, it is our understanding that the expectations and expected outcomes of the independent RES review need to be clearly understood and agreed upon at the initiation of the requested review effort. In addition, the processes for communicating and coordinating between the two offices, and with the agency's external stakeholders, also need to be clearly understood. It was not the expectation of the Task Group that a detailed generic process be developed in advance of any such request, due to the expected unique nature of each request for an independent review of NRR SEs by RES.

Once the decision has been made for an independent review by RES, the Division of Licensing Project Management (DLPM) will have the lead role in assuring that the expectations, expected outcomes, and processes are established at the beginning of this effort. We will use established review procedures, such as Office Instruction 101, in conjunction with our role of coordinating the activities between NRR and RES to accomplish this task. We will also use the experiences of RES's independent review of the IP2 SG tube SE to develop clear expectations and responsibilities between the two offices.

The above discussion, and DLPM's role in assuring that the expectations, expected outcomes, and processes are appropriately established, will be included in Office Instruction COM-100, "Procedure for NRR and RES Interactions." If there are any questions on the information contained in this memorandum, please contact Mel Fields of my staff at 415-3062.

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OFFICE	DLPM/TA	DLPM/D
NAME	MFields	JZwolinski
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