

Release All

Enclosure 2

The NRC has received information regarding the performance of certain activities at Salem that may be not meet acceptable station standards, procedures and training practices. Specifically, the Notification system allows equipment deficiencies to be entered and suggests prompt scheduling of the required corrective maintenance/preventative maintenance activities to address the underlying deficiencies. However, this often does not happen which results in a large backlog of Notifications without work orders assigned. The same problem could improperly influence equipment reliability decisions because these weaknesses impede the successful completion of the required maintenance activities and discourage new problem identification. Boron leaks are being cleaned up; however, the underlying packing leaks are not being addressed. The concerns are listed below.

Statement of Concern(s):

1. The Salem/Hope Creek Notification system allows equipment deficiencies to be entered without requiring corrective maintenance/preventative maintenance activities to be scheduled. In March 2003, approximately 1800 Notifications were open without work orders being assigned. Approximately half of these addressed very minor issues such as painting and missing insulation. Of the remaining half, approximately 25% involved safety related equipment and/or tech spec requirements. The Notification system requires that any deficiencies tied to a preventive maintenance (PM) item be recoded to a corrective maintenance (CM) item for scheduling purposes and there needs to be recognition that there is a CM along with a PM. PMs are supposed to be scheduled within six months of the date of the notification; however, in some cases, that time limit is being exceeded by a year or more. An example of that minor repair work on the emergency diesels generators and governor oil leaks.
2. Because of a lack of progress and priority in correcting underlying equipment deficiencies documented in the Notification system, this is "discouraging" to people to continue to identify new concerns.
3. Boron buildup due to valve packing leaks at Salem are being cleaned up; however, no efforts are being made to address the underlying leak. The focus is strictly on cleaning up the boron buildup. By example, in 2002, a notification Salem valve (exact valve location was not specified) had a boron leak from the packing gland area. It was cleaned up and the Notification was closed. In 2003, the boron leak recurred, a Notification was written, the valve was again cleaned up and no Notification was written to address the underlying packing leak. This Notification was dispositioned in the February 2004 time frame. Notifications written address the matter in a superficial manner and do not address the root cause of the problem.

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