

From: Mel Gray ^{IRI}
To: Glenn Meyer
Date: 3/8/04 1:49PM
Subject: Fwd: USA Assessment Preliminary Results

I talked to Jim Hutton this morning (and Steve Mannon) to further understand the USA verbal exit results.

Some background: USA Alliance is a confederation of mostly single unit nuclear plant operators from US and Canada. They share personnel equipment and techniques. After Davis Besse, they decided to develop and perform "Davis Besse assessment", later they changed the name to safety culture assessment. It involves questionnaires and interviews throughout the organization and plant walkdowns.

Last Friday (3/5) USA held an exit for about 130-150 PSEG managers. They concluded that *some* of the issues shown to be precursors at Davis-Besse were here to varying degrees. No new equipment issues or events were identified by USA that were previously unknown to PSEG management. Specifics as already outlined by Marc:

1. Concerned with HC Ops sensitivity to Rx management. two conditions identified, the 3/03 reactivity event documented in NRC IRs, and a 12/03 condition where plant went subcritical during start-up when RCIC pipe warming was commenced, and then Ops briefed on it with Rx Engineer and proceeded w/o clear procedure guidance. Example of erring in non-conservative direction when procedure guidance not clear. (This item was submitted by me to be a PIR sample this year when PS evaluation is complete).
2. Salem 13B condenser waterbox problems cited as example where corrective work and use of OE not used adequately that allowed problems to continue.
3. Trending in corrective action program not effective to repair equipment before it fails.
4. material condition is poor, especially in SW bays and EDGs (too many leaks!!) (See most recent IR, PIR section.
5. organizational communication is inconsistent.

I don't see anything new here to us (residents) that warrants an increase to our response at this time. We'll review the report when it comes out.

Mel Gray

CC: Daniel Orr; George Malone; Marc Ferdas; Scott Barber

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