

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4 BRIEFING ON
5 STATUS OF UNRESOLVED SAFETY/GENERIC ISSUES

6 ***

7 PUBLIC MEETING

8 ***

9 Nuclear Regulatory Commission
10 One White Flint North
11 Rockville, Maryland

12
13 Thursday, May 12, 1988
14

15 The Commission met in open session, pursuant to
16 notice, at 10:00 a.m., the Honorable LANDO W. ZECH, Chairman of
17 the Commission, presiding.

18 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

19 LANDO W. ZECH, Chairman of the Commission
20 THOMAS M. ROBERTS, Member of the Commission
21 FREDERICK M. BERNTHAL, Member of the Commission
22 KENNETH ROGERS, Member of the Commission
23
24
25

1 STAFF AND PRESENTERS SEATED AT THE COMMISSION TABLE:

2 S. CHILK

3 V. STELLO

4 T. SPEIS

5 W. SCHWINK

6 W. PARLER

7 F. GILLESPIE

8 W. MINERS

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1 SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE:

2 R. BEAR

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P R O C E E D I N G S

[10:00 a.m.]

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. Carr will not be with us this morning. He is on travel. Commissioner Bernthal will be with us shortly.

Today the Commission will be briefed by the NRC's Office of Research and Nuclear Reactor Regulation on the Status of the Generic Safety Issue Program. This meeting is a follow-up to the last briefing of October 21, 1987. The Generic Safety Issues are concerns that are applicable to all or several, at least, or a class, perhaps, of reactors or facilities.

Safety concerns are brought to the Commission from various sources, both internal and external to the Agency, but all are assessed and prioritized and should be resolved on some reasonable schedule.

During the last Commission briefing the Staff proposed several improvements in the process to assess, prioritize and provide increased management attention to the resolution of these generic safety issues. The Commission is interested in the Staff's assessment of how those proposed improvements in the process are working.

I would note that the Commission is not only interested in a timely resolution of these important issues but also in ensuring that these issues are resolved as completely

1 as reasonably possible. It is my understanding that there are
2 nine unresolved safety issues yet to be finalized, and the
3 Commission is interested in a status report on each of these
4 issues.

5 This is an information briefing today and not a vote is
6 expected. I understand that slides are available at the
7 entrance of the room.

8 Do any of my fellow commissioners have opening
9 comments they would like to make? Commissioner Rogers?

10 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Just one, that I hope during
11 the course of the presentation that there might be some
12 reference to the April 12th memorandum of the ACRS on the
13 effectiveness of programs related to generic and unresolved
14 safety issues, their comments, just to connect your activities
15 with those, where you agree or disagree or are making progress
16 or not making progress.

17 I think there is a point of view that is expressed in
18 that letter that is one that is important from a policy point
19 of view, and I would like to understand in the course of your
20 presentation how you see that with respect to the combinations
21 of issues. I know you will talk about that, but if you could
22 be fairly explicit in reference to that document as you
23 proceed.

24 CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right.

25 Mr. Stello, you may proceed, please.

1 MR. STELLO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Let me introduce the people at the table. Starting
3 to my far right, Warren Miners, and right next to him on my
4 right, Dr. Speis, who I will turn the briefing over to in a
5 moment, and part of the briefing will be given by Mr. Mike
6 Gillespie on my immediate left, and all the way at the end of
7 the table is Walt Schwink, who has been involved in the
8 process.

9 Two points I think I want to make at the outset. At
10 the last briefing we had of the Commission we pretty much
11 confined ourselves to the process and how we handle the generic
12 issues. Today we will try to focus and we will address
13 specifically the ACRS letter and comments and talk about the
14 progress that we are making. Sometimes this looks like such
15 big program because we have been talking about some big
16 numbers, but we also have made rather substantial progress and
17 have implemented some systems now to rather carefully track the
18 implementation of those generic issues on every plant in terms
19 of their status as to whether they have been implemented,
20 whether commitment has been made by the licensee, whether the
21 actual modifications have been made in the plant, and finally,
22 whether we needed to verify, and if so, have we done so.

23 So we have made substantial progress in this whole
24 area, and what we would like to do is to give you a feeling for
25 the kind of progress we have made.

1 With that, let me turn to Dr. Speis to begin the
2 presentation. One last thing is, while the number of slides
3 look substantial for the briefing, it is not because we really
4 have that many slides. It is the new system that we have
5 limits the ability of how much text you can really put on a
6 page. We will be rather crisp in our briefing.

7 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much.

8 Dr. Speis, you may begin.

9 MR. SPEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr.
10 Commissioners. As Mr. Stello said, I will focus the briefing
11 on the progress made in a number of areas since the last
12 briefing to you, give you a brief status of the nine USIs, as
13 you, Mr. Chairman, requested, and I will say something about
14 three issues specifically dealing with a number of important of
15 technical areas, one of them the decay heat removal issue and
16 how we will be proposing to you to fold it into the individual
17 plant examination process because it is a natural, and I will
18 discuss the reasons for it.

19 I will bring you up to date on a another issue which
20 we talked to you about last time. It is a high priority issue
21 dealing with the potential loss of residual heat removal
22 capability in some PWRs, and also I will give you the history
23 of another issue, how the process was initiated from AEOD, how
24 the analysis was done by them and how it was carried through
25 all the way to the resolution so you can see how the process

1 unfolds from the moment an issue is identified to the moment
2 that it is resolved.

3 [Slide.]

4 So the first Vugraph briefly summarizes the history
5 and status of the issues. Again, this is a short repeat from
6 the last briefing. Most of the issues on that first page, as
7 you see, came from the TMI accident, NUREG 0660 and 0737, and
8 some other issues, for a total of 511.

9 [Slide.]

10 Page 2 shows additional issues that have been
11 identified the last seven years, and that brings us to the
12 total number of issues of 743 that we have handled since this
13 program was initiated. By the way, this was two more than at
14 our last briefing October 21, 1987.

15 [Slide.]

16 On page 3 it shows the progress that we have made on
17 these generic issues. You see that we have resolved at this
18 point in time 628 of them. At the last briefing it was 610. I
19 will give you a more detailed breakdown.

20 [Slide.]

21 At the next page, on page 4, it discusses the issues
22 to still be resolved. At our last briefing that number was
23 121; at the present briefing that number is 105. We have taken
24 care of or resolved 16 issues. The only point I want to make
25 on this is you see a number there, 47, to be prioritized. We

1 also have performed an initial screening of that number, and
2 our judgment at this point in time is that only one of those
3 issues will turn out to be high priority.

4 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Before you go off that slide, as I
5 recall, there was a GAO report that referred to the Surry pipe
6 rupture event. Are there any generic safety issues in this
7 prioritization that you are reviewing in conjunction with the
8 Surry pipe rupture event?

9 MR. SPEIS: That is an issue that is receiving
10 immediate attention. It went through our system and is an
11 issue that --

12 CHAIRMAN ZECH: But is it in this program? It is
13 part of this program?

14 MR. SPEIS: Yes, it is part of this program, yes. I
15 think if you recall, Mr. Chairman, I said last time that many
16 times things happen in reactors and we don't wait for those
17 issues to be resolved before we do anything, and that is a
18 specific issue where we issued bulletins and instructions and
19 so on, but then residual concerns take a longer time. The
20 residual part of that issue is in this program here.

21 CHAIRMAN ZECH: But are there any generic issues that
22 are part of this program as a result of the Surry incident?
23 There are, you are saying?

24 MR. SPEIS: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Fine. Good. Thank you.

1 [Slide.]

2 MR. SPEIS: On page 5 it shows the summary that we
3 have 733 issues. We have handled that many so far. We have
4 completed or resolved 86 percent, and only 14 percent are
5 remaining. And again, one of the big points is that a large
6 number of them, maybe close to 50 percent, are of no
7 importance, no safety importance, but they just happen to still
8 be in our system.

9 [Slide.]

10 I would like to go through the status of each USI
11 because even though at our last briefing we had nine USIs and
12 we still have nine USIs on the books, we have made substantial
13 progress.

14 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Excuse me. In that statement when
15 you said some are of no safety importance, what does that mean?

16 MR. SPEIS: If you look on page 4 of the briefing,
17 there is an issue there "to be prioritized."

18 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Right.

19 MR. SPEIS: There is a number "47" under 5/12/88. We
20 have gone through a screening of those issues and we found only
21 one of them to be high priority, to merit serious attention.
22 The other ones are of low priority and we are trying to close
23 the books on them, basically.

24 CHAIRMAN ZECH: I see. But those that are of low
25 priority, do we just leave those on the books?

1 MR. SPEIS: We don't work on them. They don't merit
2 any attention. But we leave them on the books because somebody
3 might raise the same issue next year and we want to have the
4 documentation of what was done, and also some additional
5 information might show up next year that will make us revisit
6 that issue, and for that purpose we have them there.

7 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Could you give an example of
8 something of that category? Do you have something in mind that
9 would fit into that to just give us a feeling, just calibrate
10 your --

11 MR. SPEIS: Well, a specific example is the
12 importance of air systems. We initially had prioritized medium,
13 but additional information that was provided by AEOD made us
14 take another look and it turned high, and in fact, it elevated
15 to the high priority, as an example.

16 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: How about the other way?

17 MR. SPEIS: The other way. Nothing comes to mind.
18 We can provide many examples, but right now, I am blind right
19 now focusing on this presentation. Maybe in the next ten
20 minutes we will be able to give you many examples.

21 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: All right.

22 CHAIRMAN ZECH: That is fine. Proceed, please.

23 MR. SPEIS: On page 6 I would like to give you a
24 detailed status of each USI. As I said, Mr. Chairman, at the
25 last briefing we had nine USIs on the books, and unfortunately,

1 we still have nine USIs on the books even though we have made
2 substantial progress. Some of these issues are extremely
3 complicated and difficult, and taking them to their ultimate
4 point, it takes substantial effort, but let me go through each
5 one of them and you will see what I mean what telling you that
6 even though the number is the same, we still have made
7 progress.

8 [Slide.]

9 On page 7, the USI dealing with steam generator tube
10 integrity. We have completed the final resolution and it is my
11 understanding from Frank that this will be coming to you by the
12 end of May. Right, Frank?

13 MR. GILLESPIE: This may be a good example to
14 demonstrate the quirk in the resolution process that often you
15 don't see. There were bulletins, there were NUREG reports, and
16 action was taken and licensees have done things, and the actual
17 resolution piece of paper is the only thing left to do, and
18 that we will have up here by the end of May. Right now it is
19 over to OGC for concurrence, and it is technically resolved.
20 There is nothing additional to be done. Because of the
21 immediacy of the problem, it has already been done.

22 CHAIRMAN ZECH: This is on which USI?

23 MR. GILLESPIE: A-3, 4 and 5.

24 MR. SPEIS: On page 7.

25 MR. GILLESPIE: They are all to do with steam

1 generator integrity.

2 CHAIRMAN ZECH: On steam generator tube integrity.

3 MR. SPEIS: Yes.

4 MR. GILLESPIE: And it also includes B-56 under the
5 GSI area. So this is one where we will get four in one
6 closeout.

7 CHAIRMAN ZECH: So you are right near the end of
8 closeout, you say, on this one?

9 MR. GILLESPIE: Yes. And this also reflects one of
10 the ACRS comments of grouping like things together and dealing
11 with them as one group, and this was done in this case. It's a
12 good example of that.

13 CHAIRMAN ZECH: It is a good example.

14 [Slide.]

15 MR. SPEIS: On page 8, the next issue to bring you up
16 to date on is the issue on systems interactions. We are
17 consistent with the five-year plan. This issue has been
18 technically resolved. We have gone through the CRGR and we
19 will be issuing the Federal Register notice in July 1988.

20 [Slide.]

21 The next one, A-40, seismic design criteria,
22 basically deals with future plants, and it only addresses
23 issues relating to four existing plants, some tanks. This
24 issue also has been completely reviewed by the CRGR, by the
25 officers, and in fact, the Commission paper was signed by the

1 EDO to the Commission for public comments on 5/9/88.

2 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: This is SECY 88-123? Yes.

3 [Slide.]

4 MR. SPEIS: On page 10, USI A-44, I have here in my
5 notes that the final rule to the Commission is awaiting
6 approval. I understand it is almost there now, so that is
7 another.

8 MR. PARLER: The Commission has voted on that, Mr.
9 Chairman. The paper, I think, is going to be affirmed today.
10 The votes will be affirmed this afternoon.

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Yes, I think that is correct.

12 Just a quick question on that one. There are two, I
13 believe you might term, closely-related generic issues, safety
14 issues on station blackout. One is the reactor coolant pump
15 seal issue and the other is the diesel generator reliability
16 issue. Are these issues being looked at to the point where
17 they might be resolved so that the licensees as they review the
18 station blackout procedure would have these matters to consider
19 at the point where it would be meaningful to their station
20 blackout determination?

21 MR. SPEIS: Yes. Those two issues, Mr. Chairman, are
22 integrated with the station blackout issue, and when the
23 blackout goes out, they will know exactly what to do with the
24 other issue.

25 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Is there a schedule for resolving

1 those two issues?

2 MR. SPEIS: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN ZECH: What does that schedule look like?
4 Do you know?

5 MR. BEAR: My name is Robert Bear and I am Chief of
6 the Engineering Issues Branch. Generic Issue 23 is in my
7 branch, and that is scheduled for resolution September or
8 October. I don't have the date right in front of me.

9 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Of this year?

10 MR. BEAR: Of this year. Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much. That is both
12 issues?

13 MR. BEAR: That is the seal problem.

14 CHAIRMAN ZECH: The seal problem. How about the
15 diesel generator problem?

16 MR. MINERS: I don't know the exact date but I think
17 it is about the same time.

18 CHAIRMAN ZECH: This fall.

19 MR. MINERS: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right.

21 MR. GILLESPIE: B-56 and diesel generators will be a
22 guidance document, probably a draft Reg Guide in support of the
23 rule, and I think that is explained in the SECY also.

24 MR. STELLO: Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons, you
25 recall when we had the Commission meeting on station blackout,

1 to suggest the preference was to add additional capability for
2 providing electrical power on the site is because that allows
3 the kind of integration to solve those problems as part of the
4 station blackout solution in a very direct way. I understand
5 that the Commission, from what I have seen, that they will
6 endorse stating that preference in the statement of
7 considerations or somewhere in the rule, and we hope that the
8 industry will see the opportunity to deal with the station
9 blackout issue in such a way to integrate solutions to some of
10 these other issues that have been pending as well.

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. Thank you very much.

12 You may proceed.

13 [Slide.]

14 MR. SPEIS: The next issue, USI A-45, the issue
15 dealing with decay heat removal requirements, is one issue
16 where we have completed the technical work. We will be
17 recommending to you that it become part of the individual plant
18 examination, and I will be say some more later on in the
19 briefing.

20 [Slide.]

21 On page 12, the issue dealing with the safety
22 implications of control systems. We have completed the
23 technical work. It has gone through CRGR review, and also on
24 this issue we will be issuing a Federal Register notice for
25 public participation and the industry's participation at the

1 end of May 1988, this year.

2 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Could you talk a little bit about --
3 this is the one, I think, the ACRS letter of April 12, 1988
4 raised the concern about the scope of the unresolved and
5 generic safety issues and indicated that they thought they were
6 truncated. Can you comment on that?

7 MR. SPEIS: Yes. I can say that we don't completely
8 agree with the ACRS that we changed the original scope, but we
9 feel that the ACRS during the review, especially the last year,
10 have raised some legitimate questions. We will be sending them
11 a letter and we will be talking to them to understand the
12 questions more, and what we will be proposing, if out of those
13 questions and out of those concerns we see something that
14 merits further consideration, then we will take that ensemble
15 of concerns and define them into a new issue and prioritize it,
16 put it through our system and then go this way.

17 The ACRS, by the way, agrees that we don't have to
18 delay the resolution of A-47 the way we are approaching it to
19 incorporate their additional concerns.

20 CHAIRMAN ZECH: You have discussed the situation with
21 the ACRS?

22 MR. SPEIS: Yes, we have discussed it, and in fact,
23 we are sending you a letter, Mr. Chairman, from Mr. Stello
24 telling you basically what I just said.

25 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you.

1 [Slide.]

2 MR. SPEIS: On the next issue, the issue dealing with
3 hydrogen control measures and effects of hydrogen burns, this
4 issue really is a matter of documentation. Here is an issue
5 where not only have we resolved it but it has been implemented.
6 This issue deals with the control of hydrogen in a degraded
7 core situation for the ice condensers in the MARK-3
8 containments. That work has been done, so closing the books on
9 this issue is what we define as the resolution. The report
10 documenting the final resolution will be in July 1988.

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Will this, though -- if I understand
12 the issue correctly -- will this resolution close out the
13 issues for other containment types?

14 MR. SPEIS: No. The whole severe accident issue will
15 be coming to you in the next few months after the Master Plan,
16 and the hydrogen issue is a part of the total severe accident
17 issue.

18 CHAIRMAN ZECH: But this issue, as I understand it,
19 just applies to certain specific containment types.

20 MR. SPEIS: Applies to ice condensers in the MARK-
21 3's, and it will close the issue for just those.

22 CHAIRMAN ZECH: How about the other containments,
23 though?

24 MR. SPEIS: Well, the MARK-1's and MARK-2's, they are
25 inerted. That's okay. So we are still dealing with the large,

1 dry containment, which we will be making recommendations to you
2 this coming year.

3 CHAIRMAN ZECH: I see. All right.

4 MR. STELLO: That will be identified in the paper
5 that we are coming forward with on integration of severe
6 accident --

7 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Fine. And refer to the other
8 containments so that we will know we are covering them all.

9 MR. SPEIS: Yes. Let me summarize, Mr. Chairman.

10 On these nine USI's, by the end of June there will
11 only remain four of them, okay?

12 CHAIRMAN ZECH: The end of June, next month.

13 MR. SPEIS: By the end of June of this year, yes.

14 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Right.

15 MR. SPEIS: The systems interaction, the seismic
16 criteria, decay heat removal and safety implications for
17 control systems. The technical work has been completed on all
18 four of them. Of these four, three of them have received
19 complete CRGR review, and we will be noticing that, the process
20 that we have gone through in the Federal Register notice, and
21 only the decay heat removal, on which I will say more, will
22 remain, and that is the one that we plan to recommend to you
23 that will be part of the individual plant examination.

24 CHAIRMAN ZECH: It sounds like we are making real
25 progress.

1 MR. SPEIS: Except sometimes the numbers don't show
2 it.

3 CHAIRMAN ZECH: I understand.

4 [Slide.]

5 MR. SPEIS: Let me say something about this decay
6 heat removal issue, A-45. As I said, we have concluded that
7 the best way to resolve this issue is through integration with
8 the individual plant examination program. Now, the basis of
9 our conclusions and recommendations will be discussed in detail
10 and will be documented in the individual plant examination
11 package which will be presented to the Commission in the next
12 month or so. On page 15 it basically says those words in
13 writing.

14 The analysis that has been done on the decay heat
15 removal system where we have examined in detail the decay heat
16 removal system on six plants shows that failures or
17 vulnerabilities are very plant specific and would require an
18 individual plant examination period even if we didn't have this
19 program. This is particularly apparent at the support system
20 level, that is, electric power, service water and component
21 cooling water.

22 [Slide.]

23 I think on page 16 I have said that already, that we
24 want to subsume it into the IPE.

25 [Slide.]

1 On page 17 --

2 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Before you go to that, on page 16
3 when you are talking about the A-45 and the IPE program, do you
4 intend to send a paper to the Commission that will explain the
5 rationale for your recommendation for closing out A-45 and
6 referring to the IPE program?

7 MR. SPEIS: In great detail, yes, Mr. Chairman.

8 CHAIRMAN ZECH: When can we expect that?

9 MR. SPEIS: I don't want to say something that my
10 boss wouldn't agree, but it is our plan to present the Master
11 Plan to you --

12 CHAIRMAN ZECH: He is going to hear it from you right
13 now.

14 MR. SPEIS: Yes.

15 [Laughter.]

16 MR. SPEIS: The Master Plan will be coming to you the
17 first week of June. We have a precise date, right?

18 MR. STELLO: The 25th of May.

19 MR. SPEIS: No, no.

20 CHAIRMAN ZECH: That is quite precise.

21 MR. STELLO: The 25th of May.

22 MR. SPEIS: Yes, he is right.

23 [Laughter.]

24 MR. SPEIS: And probably about six weeks later we
25 will be getting you the IPE letter and the ensemble of

1 packages, all the attachments, which will include this issue.

2 CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right.

3 MR. SPEIS: We are proceeding on this issue also to
4 the parallel CRGR review, and the package is ready to go to
5 CRGR review. We want to make sure that --

6 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Fine. Thank you.

7 MR. SPEIS: Again, this is the only issue that, as I
8 said, everything else except this issue has been totally
9 completed.

10 On page 17, I have gone through it.

11 [Slide.]

12 MR. SPEIS: On page 18 I would like to talk about
13 this issue because it was brought up by Mr. Stello at the last
14 briefing. Some of you asked him which is one of the important
15 issues that is a high priority generic issue that is still in
16 the books, not USI, high priority generic issue, and Mr. Stello
17 brought forth the loss of RHR capability in PWRs.

18 [Slide.]

19 We have been focusing on this issue very intensively
20 the past year, especially the last month, and we have been able
21 to come up with a draft resolution. This issue, by the way,
22 deals with mid-loop maintenance operations, which could allow
23 air to be drawn into the RHR pump suction lines and possibly
24 disable the pumps, and also there is a potential for closure of
25 the RHR suction isolation valve, which will again disable the

1 pumps.

2 [Slide.]

3 Our preliminary findings discussed on page 20 show
4 that improvements can be made in a number of areas: for
5 example, better instrumentation for liquid level and flow in
6 the primary system during mid-loop operation; better procedures
7 for mid-loop operation -- I'm on page 21 --

8 [Slide.]

9 -- requirement for rapid closure of the containment
10 during mid-loop operation, and possibly remove the requirement
11 for autoclosure interlock.

12 [Slide.]

13 It is our intent to complete the resolution of this
14 issue this fiscal year, and we will be working with NRR to put
15 our resources together to resolve this issue so there will be
16 nothing remaining after we go out with the final resolution of
17 this issue.

18 [Slide.]

19 On page 23 I have briefly tried to capture the
20 process that has gone through from the time Issue 93 was
21 identified to the time it was resolved. This issue is titled
22 "Steam Binding of Aux Feedwater Pumps." Basically this issue
23 concerns the potential disabling of auxiliary feedwater pumps
24 by steam binding, which is caused by back leakage from the
25 feedwater pumps, hot water from the feedwater pumps.

1 When it was identified by the AEOD, that was back in
2 December of 1984. It was prioritized high a few months later
3 of the same year. We issued an interim -- it was resolved in
4 an interim way via a bulletin a year later in 1985. At the
5 beginning of this year we issued a generic letter and basically
6 reinforcing the actions of the bulletin, which means that even
7 though we took immediate action of sorts, the detailed work
8 that we did since that time told us that the things that we did
9 four years ago were the right things and to keep doing those
10 things.

11 So this kind of shows the process from the time AEOD
12 started looking at the data, the information, the detailed
13 technical analyses. You see here that implementation and
14 verification still has to be determined on this specific issue.
15 The imposition took place, again, in February of 1988.

16 [Slide.]

17 I would like to spend a few minutes now bringing you
18 up to date on some of the things that we have been doing to
19 keep moving on this process. If you recall, Mr. Chairman, last
20 time when we talked to you about the process, we talked about
21 the separate steps: the identification of the issues, the
22 prioritization, the resolution, the imposition, the
23 verification, the inspection. We told you that it was no
24 panacea with a pen to resolve the issues.

25 You just have to attack all the separate steps in the

1 most efficient and aggressive way, and there was no one person
2 solving the whole issue, and we looked at the issues separately
3 and we came up with what things could be done in each step of
4 the process to effect improvements in the process, in the
5 scheduling without losing the essence of the technical
6 resolution, which is very crucial, as you said in your
7 introduction.

8 [Slide.]

9 One of the things recommended is it is very important
10 that when an issue is identified, the issue is defined as
11 succinctly as possible, look for duplication at the time, and
12 also attempt to make an estimate of the safety significance of
13 that issue.

14 [Slide.]

15 We have issued a letter that tries to codify that and
16 provide as much guidance to the staff as possible. That is on
17 page 26.

18 [Slide.]

19 On page 27 we set to you the time that we will be
20 making a more thorough review of the concerns emanating from
21 future major events to make sure that we don't just lump all
22 kinds of issues just for the future but try to do as much as
23 possible at that time. If you recall from some of the events,
24 for example, Davis-Besse, we identified 30 issues, and when
25 later on we found the time to scrutinize them very carefully,

1 we found out that there were not 30, there were much less than
2 that.

3 So again in the future when we have an event like
4 Davis-Besse, we are not going to just saturate the system with
5 issues, we are going to scrutinize them at that time and keep
6 the important ones.

7 On page 28, in order to speed up prioritization,
8 again that's the initial part.

9 [Slide.]

10 It says after the identification follows the
11 prioritization. I said earlier that we don't wait. We'd like
12 to go through a screening process as soon as possible to make
13 sure that we identify any important issues. Now what we'd like
14 to do is follow that screening process while the iron is hot,
15 as they say, and meet with the right people who have identified
16 the issue, the people who have prioritized, to see if we can
17 use that screening process to close as many issues as possible,
18 again without losing the essence and the importance of the
19 safety issues.

20 That is discussed on page 29.

21 [Slide.]

22 Again, this is part of our approach that is discussed
23 on page 30 between us and NRR and again this is discussed in
24 the Memorandum of Understanding between our two offices.

25 I guess I am racing as much as possible. The

1 extremely large number of viewgraphs has given me some
2 difficulty.

3 CHAIRMAN ZECH: You are doing very well.

4 MR. SPEIS: I'll maybe use another system next time.

5 CHAIRMAN ZECH: You're doing fine.

6 MR. SPEIS: We promised that we'll look carefully at
7 our resources to assign priorities. We have done that and that
8 is in place right now.

9 On page 32, in addition to the procedures to define
10 the prioritization, we have put together procedures to put
11 these things into effect in the area of resolution. Here is an
12 area again that some of these complex issues, where many people
13 in many organizations are involved and as we told you last
14 time, management involved at that stage of the process is very
15 crucial.

16 [Slide.]

17 On page 43 we have issued again the letter on
18 prioritization identification and we have issued a draft letter
19 on resolution that's going to be finalized in the next few
20 weeks. In addition, now we put out a quarterly status report
21 to the EDOs, so when some of the issues are delayed we want to
22 make sure that EDO is aware of it and he can, you know, I guess
23 use his weight to do the appropriate things.

24 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: What's the acronym GIMES?

25 MR. STELLO: Generic Issue Management Control System.

1 MR. SPEIS: On page 44, we discussed the simultaneous
2 review involving the ACRS and the concurrence from the
3 different offices. On page 45 again there are some issues that
4 are very complex and we are still encountering some delays, but
5 again you see how much effort and how much you sustain that
6 effort to do as much as possible within the constraints of all
7 the schedules that exist in our work.

8 [Slide.]

9 The next one discusses the effort where we will try
10 to see how many of these issues can be combined and we have
11 done that on a number of issues involving electrical systems
12 and mechanical systems.

13 The big issue that we'll be recommending that it be
14 combined with the IP is Issue A-45 which -- we talked about it
15 already.

16 That brings us to page 38. It is always nice to
17 keep, effective and efficient to keep the same project manager
18 so attempt to do it as much as possible but we cannot always
19 win there.

20 On page 39, we'll include NRR, we'll include SIMS, so
21 maybe this is the point that Frank, you want to take over?
22 Right? Well, let me go a few more.

23 SIMS is the -- maybe Mr. Stello can talk about it.

24 MR. GILLESPIE: I am going to cover some Safety
25 Issues Management System and it is the process by which we're

1 using it as our official tracking system and kind of our action
2 system. We are going in to make sure these things are getting
3 implemented imposed and verified and we're making decisions on
4 which ones should be and it is being used by the PM's in NRR as
5 what we are considering our official record as to when things
6 are done or not done.

7 MR. SPEIS: This is so-called cradle to grave system
8 that includes everything from the moment an issue is
9 identified, resolved, prioritized and implemented and inspected
10 and verified and so on and so forth.

11 The implementation information will be included in
12 SIMS on page 41.

13 [Commissioner Bernthal joins the meeting.]

14 MR. SPEIS: One of the things I am not so sure we
15 were doing as good a job as we should have been doing in the
16 past was to make the requirements as clear as possible when we
17 resolve an issue and send out the information to the utilities,
18 what they have to do. We will be working much more closely
19 with NRR to ensure the issue resolution and position packages
20 are as clear as possible on what exactly is required and
21 includes appropriate schedule and resource information.

22 On page 42, the other thing we are looking at in
23 addition to looking at the combining issues at the resolution
24 of process, we will be looking at whether we can combine issues
25 at the implementation process and if combining the

1 implementation is beneficial, then we will do this.

2 Efforts are being made by both us and NRR to meet the
3 intent of this improvement.

4 I would like to say something -- I am on page 44 --
5 about the ACRS letter that Commissioner Rogers wrote up.

6 I think the ACRS letter was complimentary for our
7 efforts, at least in some areas more than in others. I think
8 we have found it very useful. We went through the history of
9 the process. We gave them a number of examples of how we go
10 through the process from the moment an issue is identified to
11 the time it is resolved. When I look at it very carefully,
12 they think that they agree with us that as far as
13 identification is concerned, they do not have any difficulties.

14 Likewise, prioritizaion, resolution. They seem to
15 begin to get some difficulties when we get to the imposition
16 and implementation and verification and especially on the scope
17 of the issues. Somehow they think that maybe we are not
18 keeping our oath when initially we define the issue and bound
19 it. They have the impression that at least on some issues we
20 change the scope. We have discussed this in detail with them
21 and the example that Mr. Chairman brought up, the A-47, it is
22 our feeling, and we are trying to be as honest as we can with
23 each other, that they raised some legitimate issues, but later
24 on -- okay, it wasn't during the identification of the issues
25 that those issues came up.

1 So some of those things come up -- I guess when you
2 have an issue on the books for two or three years, many
3 technical people are looking at it and scrutinizing it and it
4 is almost natural that some additional questions will be
5 raised.

6 But we have a system in place. When additional
7 issues are raised, additional concerns, if we can put our hands
8 around them, then we can put them through our system,
9 prioritize them and handle them properly.

10 But if safety improvements have been identified in an
11 issue, we should proceed forward. We shouldn't wait for the
12 additional concerns to be discussed for the next four or five
13 years until some perfection. The world is not perfect.

14 CHAIRMAN ZECH: As I recall, that ACRS letter did say
15 that they found the process to be -- I think they said
16 generally effective. They did talk about the scope and they
17 raised an important issue. Really as I understand it, it talks
18 about a balance and it is a balance between thoroughly and
19 completely resolving the issues and resolving them in a timely
20 manner.

21 Now that is a very important question. I think it is
22 properly raised. I am sure that the CRGR and those responsible
23 staff people involved in solving these issues do weight that
24 and do try to balance that, but it is a very important question
25 to keep before you all the time and perhaps it might be worth

1 hearing your views on, briefly, as to how you do balance
2 closing the issues out in a reasonably timely manner as opposed
3 to being reasonably confident that you have really resolved the
4 issue. Some of them are complex. We know that. That is why
5 they take so long, but I think the ACRS raised a legitimate
6 question. Could you comment?

7 MR. SPEIS: Well, we value the ACRS's advice and we
8 interact with them very extensively and I think very
9 effectively on most of the issues. We see things that either
10 comes once in a while or like on this Issue A-47, that
11 additional questions and concerns were raised during the
12 process and most of them were raised really the last six
13 months, when we almost were there, and I think some of them are
14 valid and we're going to scrutinize them and work with them
15 some more to make sure that these additional concerns merit
16 further consideration.

17 But you know there are individual members, both on
18 the staff of the ACRs -- they have their own pet projects and
19 and ideas. Some of them are good but somebody has to make a
20 decision, has to weigh the priorities and go through a risk
21 perspective, go through a deterministic perspective and we do
22 the best job we can.

23 CHAIRMAN ZECH: It is a judgment call, of course, but
24 I think it is trying to balance being thorough and analytically
25 careful and look at all the analysis possible and then of

1 course you can get paralysis through analysis if you just keep
2 doing it forever. We all know that but the legitimate
3 question, I really think, is somewhere along the line you have
4 to make a decision but you don't want to make a decision
5 without being at least confident. At least you have a number
6 of professionals who believe that you have gone far enough, but
7 somewhere you do have to make a decision.

8 I think it is just going through that middle exercise
9 of thoughtfulness that says how far do we go? Have we gone
10 about as far as we can? Are we reasonably confident the
11 decision we will make is a proper one and within our regulatory
12 responsibilities, so it is a judgement call.

13 But I think it is important for those of you involved
14 in making the final recommendations that do weigh that balance
15 of timeliness versus confidence of your recommendations.

16 MR. STELLO: Mr. Chairman, I think there is going to
17 be a very, very good example of just how we have done that with
18 the paper we are now preparing on the integration of the severe
19 accident issue.

20 Clearly, if we wait until we have every question
21 answered before we do anything, it will be in fact be many,
22 many years, so those very judgments you are talking about, how
23 to go about it, we have made them. We will be presenting them
24 to the Commission for your review and with a suggestion that it
25 is time to move on but with the understanding of those issues

1 which we clearly don't yet have enough to move with.

2 So, you will have an excellent example of just how
3 we, in fact, have done that and made sure that we have looked
4 at it as broadly as it needs to be.

5 But, yet, at the same time, recognizing where we
6 really are, decisions have to be made. We're suggesting it's
7 time to make them and move on and I think that that will be,
8 perhaps, the clearest example of just how we, in fact, are
9 doing precisely what I think the ACRS.

10 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Good. I think the Commission, once
11 the field, the confidence that you have, that you have
12 confidence yourself in the decision, that you have resolved it
13 to the extent that you can be satisfied.

14 On the other hand, we all know that some of these
15 things, you don't get every tiny bit resolved, but sometimes
16 it's important, in my judgment, to make a safety decision
17 rather than to not make one and go and go on and go on, because
18 you could be doing something to improve safety that you are
19 confident in, even though you may not have solved the complete
20 problem.

21 So, that's the confidence I think the Commission
22 needs to get from the staff when you present us some of these
23 very complex issues.

24 A balance between your confidence of resolution and
25 timeliness. And it is a judgment call, but this is what I

1 think we'll be expecting to hear from you.

2 MR. STELLO: I think the Commission will deem to hear
3 from insight in that issue when they look at it, that very
4 question.

5 And I'll make a point of emphasizing that when we go
6 through that paper.

7 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you. Fine. Let's proceed,
8 please.

9 MR. SPEIS: Mr. Gillespie will complete the remaining
10 part of the presentation. He will discuss the imposition of
11 the issues.

12 MR. GILLESPIE: Let me just back up to one of the
13 things covered on steam binding of auxillary feed water pumps,
14 which was GSI-93.

15 In fact, the generic letter was sent out and it
16 effected 73 plants. It was sent out in February. We've gotten
17 two responses back where imposition is now complete.

18 So, the process is working, I think, in a matter of
19 months, at least on that issue. We're getting responses back
20 and it's getting worse.

21 Let me focus as I go through. I've tried to focus on
22 the improvements we've made in imposition implementation of the
23 licensee and verification.

24 The system we use to keep track of it is SIMS.

25 [Slide.]

1 MR. GILLESPIE: SIMS gives a number of standard
2 reports. It's used in our office to keep track of when things
3 are closed out, when they aren't closed out.

4 They keep track of lots of statistics. The kind of
5 statistics you get out of it are on the first slide. This
6 gives you a feel for your sheer numbers, when you have generic
7 issue and you multiply it by 100 plants.

8 Suddenly, you start getting into lots and lots of
9 issues. Improvements we've made -- if I could have the next
10 slide.

11 [Slide.]

12 MR. GILLESPIE: -- in the imposition area, we now
13 have in the projects group, a project manager assigned to each
14 generic issue.

15 When it's to be imposed, and this goes beyond generic
16 issues, but any multi-plant action. For the future, we've made
17 some other improvements.

18 As something gets imposed at this time, we now have
19 in if it's by generic letter, if it's by bulletin, and in cases
20 by rule.

21 We're now writing in as standard procedure for the
22 licensee to tell us when he's done. That was not a requirement
23 in the past and it's a simple requirement and it helps when you
24 impose it up front with the next step, which is implementation,
25 knowing when it's implemented.

1 This is a big effort. The database has now been
2 loaded and we're working with the data. And this goes right up
3 to the senior management in NRR being involved, working with
4 the data when it's closed out.

5 [Slide.]

6 MR. GILLESPIE: On implementation, I talked of an
7 improvement we just made in implementation for future actions.

8 We do have a problem with implementation on past
9 actions, which meant going to the plants, calling them up and
10 saying, have you done what we asked you to do.

11 It highlighted some of the problems in the past. We
12 hope we've now corrected on implementation. It's a lack of
13 definition.

14 In many cases, a plant would come back and say, well,
15 we're not sure if we did it or not because we're not sure what
16 you asked us to do.

17 And there was lots of digging. The utilities
18 contributed a lot of information to this. In the current
19 packages that go out, and in the crossover between imposition
20 and implementation, we now require internally in the office for
21 a package to go forward.

22 Not only that it be detailed and what is imposing on
23 the licensee, but if the imposition is going to require a
24 generic letter, a bulletin, or rule change, that that action
25 also be completed at the time.

1 In addition, how will we inspect it. We make the
2 decision on whether it's important enough to need to be
3 verified at that time.

4 If it's important enough to need to be verified at
5 that time, we want the temporary instruction that tell us our
6 instructors what they need to do to verify and complete it at
7 the same time.

8 One of the catches in this is if we feel, if we have
9 enough information to tell an inspector to go out and look at
10 what's being done, that's kind of a QA on, are we telling the
11 licensee what to do in enough detail.

12 So, we've improved the process and made it far more
13 complete to try to deal with both the level of detail and now
14 the implementation flows over into verification.

15 I talked about the licensee certification. These
16 three things tend to flow together because it's a complete
17 package.

18 [Slide.]

19 MR. GILLESPIE: On verification, I think, we're not
20 verifying everything. Clearly, you can just see from the sheer
21 numbers, 14,000 TMI items. We are doing those.

22 CHAIRMAN ZECH: But you are getting, you said, I
23 believe, a report from the licensee that he has completed.

24 MR. GILLESPIE: We are now getting a report from the
25 licensee that he has completed it, exactly.

1 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Well, does that --

2 MR. GILLESPIE: Now --

3 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Where does that show up? What kind
4 of a slide or --

5 MR. GILLESPIE: That shows up in implementation. We
6 now know when it's been, in fact, implemented at a licensee.

7 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Is that what implementation means,
8 that the --

9 MR. GILLESPIE: Implementation is the utility has, in
10 fact, implemented the change.

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: He says it's completed.

12 MR. GILLESPIE: He says it's completed.

13 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Action completed.

14 MR. GILLESPIE: Hardware is done, procedures changed,
15 training is complete. We've done everything asked and it's now
16 in working order.

17 CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. I see. And then the
18 verification means to --

19 MR. GILLESPIE: Our inspector has gone out and looked
20 at it and eyeballed it and said, it, indeed, is in place.

21 CHAIRMAN ZECH: And the difference between that and
22 implementation is that that has not necessarily been inspected
23 by our people. Is that correct?

24 MR. GILLESPIE: Yes.

25 MR. STELLO: We don't try to do 100 percent

1 inspection --

2 CHAIRMAN ZECH: I see.

3 MR. STELLO: -- of everything.

4 CHAIRMAN ZECH: I understand.

5 MR. STELLO: And we pick and choose those things to
6 inspect and verify.

7 CHAIRMAN ZECH: I understand.

8 MR. GILLESPIE: Now, for the past, mortgage I'll call
9 it, we have gone through this system. This was loaded -- the
10 information, it was loaded in November. Between November and
11 about January, all of the high category items were reviewed and
12 14 were selected as needing specific verification.

13 Temporary instructions are being worked and
14 inspectors are now verifying those. Of the mediums and lows,
15 there was a group of four which were looked at and said, these
16 need attention.

17 And the attention on those specific four were in our
18 normal routine inspection program, it'll say pick a random
19 sample. We've un-randomed the sample and said, look at these
20 specific items.

21 So, we're picking those four. All the rest were
22 deliberately looked at and a conscious decision was made that
23 our current inspection program covers the process of systems of
24 which they're part of and there was no need to use extra
25 resources to do it.

1 That really covers imposition implementation and
2 verification.

3 MR. STELLO: That completes the presentation. And
4 with Commissioner Rogers' permission, we'll give you that list.
5 We don't have anyone here with us, but we'll send you the list.

6 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Send it to all of us, if you would.

7 MR. STELLO: Oh, yes.

8 CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right.

9 MR. MINERS: I think the list is available. We can
10 send it to you. You know, 933 has a table in it which lists
11 all the issues.

12 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Well, give us the information --

13 MR. STELLO: Well get it to the Commission
14 specifically.

15 CHAIRMAN ZECH: So that we know what the answer is.
16 All right. Thank you very much. Any questions from my fellow
17 Commissioners? Commissioner Roberts?

18 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: No.

19 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Commissioner Bernthal?

20 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Well, I apologize that I
21 missed a good deal of the presentation and I don't have a long
22 list of things to ask here, especially if I'm repeating thing
23 in the one or two comments, please let me know.

24 One thing that I was interested in is the status of
25 this generic letter that we've been waiting for now for one

1 year and five months, I believe, or something like that, that
2 will get us launched into the individual plant examination
3 program.

4 Where is -- I realize that's somewhat related, not so
5 directly related to the presentation that --

6 MR. STELLO: We will be giving the Commission a paper
7 on integration of all the severe accident issues, the 25th of
8 May and hopefully we'll have a briefing on that.

9 The letter you're referring to, the IPE letter, has
10 been through the staff. The CRGR review is completed. The
11 ACRS review has been finished. And in about another month,
12 that letter will be before the Commission.

13 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: So, as far as you can see at
14 this point, there are no other major snags and that you're
15 essentially finished it.

16 MR. STELLO: We're essentially finished now.

17 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Well, in the general vein of
18 the Chairman's earlier comments, I, too, often worry that we
19 try to move forward with grand designs too often.

20 Every now and then I think it even gives staff a
21 certain sense of satisfaction rather than maybe while you're
22 having trouble with some of the biggest of generic safety
23 issues that are unresolved, maybe pick off an easier one or
24 two, so they can actually finish something once in a while.

25 Let's just make sure we aren't trying to solve

1 everything all at once and, therefore, moving so slowly on all
2 fronts that we never reach a goal on any front.

3 That's a theme that I've sounded before I agree with
4 the Chairman's comments on that. Other than that, I guess the
5 only comment I would have is that I understand, from a paper
6 now before the Commission, that you are attempting, Vic, to
7 make some -- take some special initiatives through THEMIS and
8 within research.

9 And, as I understand it, in improving communications
10 between research and NRR. And, THEMIS, or course, with your
11 previous experience and your life at NRR, you understand that
12 problem very well.

13 And I would hope that those communications would be
14 enhanced by the steps that you're taking and that the
15 responsibility for resolving these issues is squarely placed
16 and that we can move forward quickly now and effectively on
17 that, within the research program.

18 MR. SPEIS: Mr. Murley and Mr. Sneizak have made a
19 commitment to work with us.

20 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Good. That's the way it's
21 got to work. This was all supposed to make the communications
22 better, remember, when you moved over to research, and let's
23 make sure it does.

24 That's really all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. Thank you very much.

1 Commissioner Rogers?

2 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Yeah. I wonder if you can say
3 something about the issue that was brought up in the ACRS, a
4 letter, about to what extent safety has actually and measurably
5 been increased by resolving some of these issues.

6 There seems to be some disagreement on the part of
7 Duke Power as to whether certain things actually increased,
8 safety, or not.

9 And it would seem that some systematic way of trying
10 to take a retrospective view of the actual safety improvement
11 in by some reasonable measure of having resolved these issues
12 might give some guidance in helping to, in the future, define
13 generic issues as you want to do.

14 That you want to pin them down as precisely as
15 possible before you get into trying to resolve them, and some
16 kind of guidance has to -- any kind of guidance will be helpful
17 in doing that.

18 I would think taking a retrospective look at actual
19 measures of safety improvements by resolving a whole class of
20 generic issues might be useful in helping to cut down the mis-
21 directed effort that starts out this process sometimes and can
22 tighten it up, perhaps, which you're hoping to do.

23 MR. STELLO: That's a very good question and one that
24 we have started to really ask ourselves in the past several
25 years, to make sure that we do not impose requirements for

1 which we are not persuaded that those requirements will, in
2 fact, reduce a safety improvement or a significant safety
3 improvement.

4 Let me give you one example to illustrate the point.
5 We were struggling about the issue of adding additional valves
6 in a pressurizer.

7 When we started to look at, to the best techniques we
8 have today, was that safety improvement or safety benefit. And
9 it depended on the assumptions that one makes because when you
10 add relief valves, you obviously introduce additional
11 mechanisms for failures.

12 And what are the failure rates of the pieces of
13 equipment, if they are what you have today, and if you add
14 them, you'd make the plants less safe, or if you could get the
15 safety improvements better, that is a reliability of valves
16 improved.

17 Then if you added them, you might be able to argue
18 the benefit. Some of these show up as being fairly marginal.
19 And in some cases, one can suggest that some of the things that
20 we have maybe even went the other way, and that is detracted
21 from safety.

22 So, if you look at a lot of the things that we've
23 done in the past, over the many years where we haven't had the
24 kinds of analysis techniques available as we have today, I'm
25 sure you probably could make some of the arguments that some of

1 those really didn't substantially improve safety and maybe even
2 detracted from it.

3 But I think today, the system that we use, the way we
4 go about analyzing, we feel pretty confident that not only can
5 we make the argument that we are improving safety, but tell you
6 why and give you some indication, at least some basis for
7 making even, in some cases, a quantitative assessment of how
8 much.

9 So, I think we've made a lot progress in that area
10 and we are mindful of that. That's not an easy issue to deal
11 with and we work very hard at it now.

12 And I think what you had in the ACRS letters, Duke
13 Power Company making the observation that, you know, in their
14 judgment they saw a number of things where clearly safety's
15 improved and we concur.

16 They have some where they say it was marginal and
17 that's their judgment and I suspect that we could debate the
18 issue.

19 But the point they were making is a valid one and I
20 concur in it, and I think we're very conscious of it, and I
21 don't think that's a problem anymore.

22 In the past, I think it was probably a fair comment,
23 not today.

24 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: But, just along these lines, I
25 would hope that somehow that we have some documentation that

1 can be referred to in the future so that we don't ever go back
2 to some of these issues that really we have learned.

3 And we're talking about another 20 years or more of
4 activity on some of these plants. There will be a new cast of
5 characters that are both at the plants and at the Commission.

6 And somehow these issues can easily arise again. I'm
7 sure you've seen that already in your history of suggestions
8 that there be a new look at something that probably had been
9 looked at very thoroughly in the past.

10 And there might not be anyone around today who did
11 it, and so, some easy reference and codification of this kind
12 of thing would be very useful in the future.

13 MR. STELLO: That's precisely the reason for the
14 comment Dr. Speis made earlier. Where we have these low
15 priority issues, we keep a document, we close them out, we have
16 that documentation for that very reason.

17 So, if it comes up again, we know what the basis was,
18 the judgment made before. If there's new information clearly,
19 then there might be a basis to open it.

20 But if there's not, then we already have the
21 documentation to preclude us from having to do that.

22 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Does the SIMS system help in this
23 regard?

24 MR. STELLO: The SIMS really are for those things
25 that you are, in fact, going to implement on plants. You start

1 with the generic issue being identified, and if it goes and it
2 gets closed out because there's nothing actioned, there will be
3 a document showing it.

4 But then it carries it all the way through, on every
5 plant, which plant needed that action, did they, in fact --

6 CHAIRMAN ZECH: But it shows you've done something.
7 It's a record, is it not?

8 MR. STELLO: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN ZECH: And it will be a permanent record?

10 MR. STELLO: Permanent record for all issues.

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: So, if something new comes up in the
12 future, or somebody thinks it's new, you can tap into that
13 system and question --

14 MR. STELLO: Absolutely.

15 CHAIRMAN ZECH: -- and get all the references.

16 MR. STELLO: That's another reason for needing that
17 system.

18 CHAIRMAN ZECH: So, it is useful, then, in this
19 regard?

20 MR. STELLO: Oh, yes.

21 MR. MINERS: But SIMS does not have the low priority
22 issues that we've thrown out on it. SIMS only has the high
23 priority issues that are being --

24 CHAIRMAN ZECH: How do we keep track of the low
25 priority issues?

1 MR. SPEIS: We have a document known as 0933 which
2 updated. In fact, we have written a Commission paper to draw
3 it to your attention, maybe before your term, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN ZECH: That can accommodate Commissioner
5 Rogers' concerns?

6 MR. SPEIS: Yes. And that has been updated every six
7 months.

8 MR. MINERS: That's the table I was speaking of that
9 we're going to send to you. It will come directly out of that
10 --

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: So, we're not reinventing the wheel?

12 MR. SPEIS: No, sir.

13 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Thank you. That's fine.

14 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Any other questions?

15 [No response.]

16 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Well, let me just say that I
17 appreciate the excellent briefing. It seems to me, from what
18 we've heard, that although we all know that this is a very high
19 priority program of interest to the Commission as well as the
20 staff, solving these generic and safety issues, it does seem to
21 me like we are making progress.

22 I think the numbers that you've given, of course,
23 would say that it's something that we should continue to work
24 on.

25 But I do think the organization, the new

1 organization, perhaps has been helpful because of Dr. Speis'
2 background.

3 And I think Mr. Sneizak and others who are involved
4 in this program and in research and NRR cooperations going on,
5 it does seem to me, perhaps, that we are making, perhaps, more
6 progress than we have been in the past.

7 Mr. Stello, could you comment on that? Do you feel
8 that we are perhaps focusing on this program more and do you
9 feel a little bit more confident that these important safety
10 issues are getting perhaps more focused attention than they
11 were?

12 And is the reorganization helpful as far as you're
13 concerned?

14 MR. STELLO: The short answer to both is yes. The
15 new organization, not just Dr. Speis, Warren and others who
16 worked at NRR, and know the NRR system and licensing process
17 and has a sensitivity to it, now in research.

18 Also the people that are back in NRR and the kinds of
19 contacts and the communication. And, you know, the willingness
20 to get on with it is clearly evident now in the new
21 organization and true spirit of getting these issues resolved
22 as crisply and quickly and efficiently as we can.

23 I think everyone is committed to it, you see the
24 evidence, it's there. So, I don't really have any more
25 reservation, but I might add that the progress that we talked

1 to you about is real today.

2 We have made substantial progress in moving these
3 issues forward and in the next couple of months, the remaining
4 USI's, we're going to be fairly close to finished.

5 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Well, I think it is encouraging and I
6 think that the staff is to be commended for the efforts they're
7 making.

8 Again, I do think, though, we need to focus on a
9 balance between getting the best resolution we possibly can and
10 trying to make it timely, too.

11 And, so, I know you're doing that. I would also
12 strongly recommend that you continue a close relationship with
13 the ACRS as you have been doing, and I think that that is
14 really very important and appropriate to solving these issues.

15 They can be very helpful with their experience and
16 background in assisting the Commission in resolving these
17 safety and generic issues.

18 I think that the briefing has been very useful and I
19 think that the staff is making progress. Again, there's always
20 room for more progress and I would suggest that you continue to
21 give it the priority and the direction and the cooperation, the
22 coordination that is obviously being exercised.

23 So, thank you for an excellent briefing this morning,
24 and if no other comments, we stand adjourned.

25 [Whereupon, at 11:10 a.m., the briefing was

1 concluded.]

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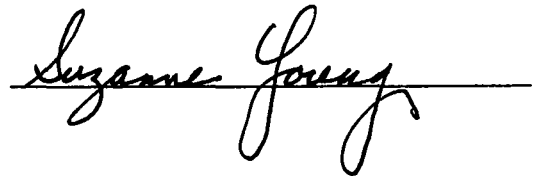
This is to certify that the attached events
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TITLE OF MEETING: Briefing on Status of Unresolved Safety/Generic
Issues

PLACE OF MEETING: Washington, D.C.

DATE OF MEETING: Thursday, May 12, 1988

were transcribed by me. I further certify that said
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Young", is written over a horizontal line.

Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.

COMMISSION BRIEFING
ON
THE STATUS OF
THE GENERIC ISSUES PROGRAM

T. P. SPEIS
RES, X23710
MAY 12, 1988

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IDENTIFICATION, PRIORITIZATION, RESOLUTION (RES)

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:

HISTORY AND STATUS OF ISSUES - RECAP

- PROGRAM STARTED IN 1981 WITH 511
ISSUES IDENTIFIED TO BE PRIORITIZED:
 - TMI ITEMS (NUREG 0660
& 0737) - 369
 - NUREGs 0371 & 0471 - 142
 - 511

- ADDITIONAL 222 ISSUES (INCLUDING
HUMAN FACTORS ISSUES) IDENTIFIED
IN THE PAST 7 YEARS
- TOTAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED AS OF
3/31/88 = 733

<u>PROGRESS SINCE 10/21/87 BRIEFING</u>		
<u>ISSUES RESOLVED</u>	<u>10/21/87</u>	<u>5/12/88</u>
PRIORITIZED LOW	25	24 Δ
PRIORITIZED DROP	62	66 Δ
INTEGRATED W/OTHER		
ISSUES	119	121 Δ
RESOLUTION DEFINED		
IN NUREG-0737	88	88
RESOLVED	275	285 Δ
NON-SAFETY (LI, RI,	41	<u>44</u> Δ
& E)	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
SUB-TOTAL:	610	628

ISSUES STILL TO BE RESOLVED

	<u>10/21/87</u>	<u>5/12/88</u>
USIS	9	9
HIGH	32	28 Δ
MEDIUM	16	12 Δ
NEARLY RESOLVED	12	11 Δ
TO BE PRIORITIZED	<u>52</u>	<u>45</u> Δ
SUB-TOTAL:	<u>121</u>	<u>105</u>

SUMMARY

	<u>10/21/87</u>	<u>5/12/88</u>
RESOLVED	610 (83%)	628 (86%)
TO BE RESOLVED	<u>121</u> (17%)	<u>105</u> (14%)
TOTAL:	<u>731</u>	<u>733</u>
	—	—

STATUS OF USIs

A-3, 4, 5

A-17

A-40

A-44

A-45

A-47

A-48

USIs A-3, 4, 5: STEAM GENERATOR TUBE
INTEGRITY

5-YR. PLAN RESOLUTION DATE: 02/88

CURRENT RESOLUTION DATE: 06/88

STATUS: FINAL RESOLUTION TO

COMM. 05/88

USI A-17: SYSTEMS INTERACTIONS

5-YR. PLAN RESOLUTION DATE: 09/89

CURRENT RESOLUTION DATE: 09/89

STATUS: RESOLUTION PACKAGE TO

CRGR 05/88

FRN 07/88

USI A-40: SEISMIC DESIGN CRITERIA
5-YR. PLAN RESOLUTION DATE: 06/89
CURRENT RESOLUTION DATE: 06/89
STATUS: CRGR REVIEW
COMPLETED 03/88
FRN TO BE ISSUED 06/88

USI A-44: STATION BLACKOUT
5-YR. PLAN RESOLUTION DATE: 05/88
CURRENT RESOLUTION DATE: 05/88
STATUS: FINAL RULE TO COMM.
IN 1/88 - AWAITING APPROVAL

USI A-45: DECAY HEAT REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS

5-YR. PLAN RESOLUTION DATE 04/90

CURRENT RESOLUTION DATE: 04/90

STATUS: RESOLUTION TO BE PART OF

IPE. DRAFT RESOLUTION

TO CRGR 07/88

USI A-47: SAFETY IMPLICATIONS OF CONTROL
SYSTEMS

5-YR. PLAN RESOLUTION DATE: 04/89

CURRENT RESOLUTION DATE: 04/89

STATUS: CRGR REVIEW OF DRAFT

RESOLUTION COMPLETED

12/87.

FRN

05/88

USI A-48: HYDROGEN CONTROL MEASURES AND
EFFECTS OF HYRDOGEN BURNS

5-YR. PLAN RESOLUTION DATE: 06/88

CURRENT RESOLUTION DATE: 06/88

STATUS: SUMMARY REPORT DOCU-
MENTING FINAL RESOLUTION
TO BE ISSUED IN 6/88

USI A-45, "DECAY HEAT REMOVAL
(DHR) REQUIREMENTS"

- ANALYSES HAVE SHOWN THAT DHR
FUNCTION FAILURES ARE SUFFICIENTLY
PLANT-SPECIFIC AND WOULD REQUIRE
IPE, PARTICULARLY APPARENT AT THE
SUPPORT SYSTEM LEVEL (E.G., ELECTRIC
POWER, SERVICE WATER, & COMPONENT
COOLING WATER)

- PROPOSED STAFF RESOLUTION OF A-45
IS TO SUBSUME ISSUE INTO IPEs.
- THE PROPOSED GL STATES THAT THE IPE
SHOULD IDENTIFY THE VULNERABLE
ASPECTS OF DHR FUNCTION.

- THE PROPOSED GL PROVIDES INSIGHTS
GAINED FROM 6 LIMITED-SCOPE PRAS
WHICH ADDRESS THE DHR FUNCTION
PERFORMED BY NRC UNDER THE A-45
PROGRAM.

GSI-99, "Loss of RHR CAPABILITY IN PWRs"

- ISSUE FOCUSES ON TWO MODES OF COMMON
CAUSE FAILURE OF RHR COOLING:
1. MID-LOOP MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS
ALLOWING AIR TO BE DRAWN INTO
THE RHR PUMP SUCTION LINES,
 2. SPURIOUS CLOSURE OF THE RHR
SUCTION/ISOLATION VALVES,
ACTUATED BY AUTOCLOSURE INTERLOCKS.

- PRELIMINARY FINDINGS SHOW IMPROVEMENTS
CAN BE MADE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
 - 1. BETTER INSTRUMENTATION FOR
LIQUID LEVEL AND FLOW IN THE
PRIMARY SYSTEM DURING MID-LOOP
OPERATION.

2. BETTER PROCEDURES FOR MID-LOOP
OPERATION.
3. REQUIREMENT FOR RAPID CLOSURE OF
THE CONTAINMENT DURING MID-LOOP
OPERATION.
4. REMOVE REQUIREMENT FOR
AUTOCLOSURE INTERLOCK.

- GSI-99 IS SCHEDULED FOR RESOLUTION DURING FY88 AND RES IS CURRENTLY ASSISTING NRR IN A BULLETIN WHICH WOULD RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

GS1 93

TITLE: STEAM BINDING OF AFW PUMPS

IDENTIFIED: 07/84 (BY AEOD)

PRIORITIZED: 10/84 (HIGH).

RESOLVED: INTERIM ACTION ISSUED VIA
IEB 85-01 IN 10/85.

GL-88-03 ISSUED 2/88

REINFORCING ACTIONS

REQUIRED BY IEB 85-01

IMPOSED: 02/88 (GL 88-03 TO PWRs)

IMPLEMENTED: TBD

VERIFIED: TBD

PROGRESS ON POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS
RECOMMENDED ON 10/21/87

- :
- INDIVIDUALS AND/OR OFFICES IDENTIFYING ISSUES WILL BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE BETTER DEFINITION OF PROPOSED ISSUES BY CHECKING FOR DUPLICATION WITH PREVIOUSLY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES, PROVIDING A CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ISSUE, AND MAKING AN ESTIMATE OF THE SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ISSUE.

STATUS

RES OL #1 ISSUED IN 12/87

- THE STAFF WILL MAKE A MORE THOROUGH REVIEW OF CONCERNS EMANATING FROM FUTURE MAJOR EVENTS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PROPOSED ISSUES IDENTIFIED FOR PRIORITIZATION.

STATUS

NOW PART OF STAFF APPROACH. SUPPORTED BY ACRS LETTER TO CHAIRMAN IN 4/88.

- TO SPEED UP PRIORITIZATION, RES WILL UTILIZE, WHERE PRACTICAL, A MEETING AMONG COGNIZANT STAFF PERSONNEL FOR PEER REVIEW IN PLACE OF THE EXISTING MORE "RIGID" PEER REVIEW PROCESS. RES AND NRR ARE FORMULATING A MOU WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WILL REQUIRE A QUICK TURN-AROUND (3 WEEKS) ON PRIORITIZATION PACKAGES SENT FOR PEER REVIEW.

RES WILL UTILIZE THE EXISTING PRELIMINARY
SCREENING STEP IN THE PRIORITIZATION
PROCESS TO RESOLVE LOW AND DROP ISSUES:
THE ISSUES WILL BE DISPOSED OF USING A
STREAMLINED PROCESS WITH THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE ORIGINATOR OF THE
ISSUE.

STATUS

NOW PART OF STAFF APPROACH. MOU BETWEEN
RES & NRR TO BE ISSUED,

- RES WILL ASSIGN THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE MORE FTE TO THE PRIORITIZATION EFFORT TO HELP REDUCE THE BACKLOG.

STATUS

CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE (1 FTE EQUIVALENT)
IN PLACE.

- RES AND NRR WILL ISSUE OFFICE PROCEDURES DEFINING THE GSI RESOLUTION PROCESS INCLUDING GUIDELINES FOR EARLY RESOLUTION, UPPER-LEVEL MANAGEMENT APPROVAL OF SCHEDULE SLIPPAGES, AND BETTER INTEROFFICE COORDINATION. A QUARTERLY STATUS SUMMARY OF GSI RESOLUTION PROGRESS WILL BE PROVIDED

TO THE EDO HIGHLIGHTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS
PROBLEMS AND PROPOSED RESOLUTION.

STATUS

- RES OL #1 ISSUED IN 12/87
- RES OL #3 (DRAFT) ISSUED 1/88
- QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT (GIMCS) NOW
GOES TO EDO

- GSI RESOLUTION PACKAGES WILL BE
SIMULTANEOUSLY SENT TO OTHER OFFICES
AND THE ACRS FOR REVIEW, CONCURRENCE,
AND/OR APPROVAL. TIMELY REVIEW BY
THESE PARTIES WILL BE SOUGHT WITH
PROBLEMS RAISED TO HIGHER
MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING THE EDO.

STATUS

DUE TO THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES,
DELAYS ARE STILL BEING ENCOUNTERED WITH
GAINING CONSENSUS ON RESOLUTION PACKAGES.

- RES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH NRR, WILL EXPLORE WHETHER OR NOT SOME EXISTING UNRESOLVED ISSUES CAN BE COMBINED AND RESOLVED AS A PACKAGE AND ALSO VIA THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL PLANT EXAMINATION PORTION OF THE SEVERE ACCIDENT POLICY. IF COMBINING ISSUES HAS THE POTENTIAL TO ACCELERATE THEIR RESOLUTION, THIS WILL BE DONE.

STATUS

FIRST CASE: USI A-45. STAFF PROPOSES TO
MAKE RESOLUTION PART OF IPE.

- RES AND NRR WILL MAINTAIN CURRENT
ISSUE TASK MANAGERS ON THEIR ISSUES
WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND WILL ENSURE A
BACKUP TASK MANAGER IS AVAILABLE.

STATUS

NO CHANGES TO TASK MANAGERS HAVE BEEN
MADE.

- NRR WILL INCLUDE IN SIMS UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF GSI IMPLEMENTATION BY 11/01/87. A QUARTERLY STATUS SUMMARY OF GSI IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE EDO HIGHLIGHTING PROBLEM AREAS AND PROPOSED RESOLUTION.

STATUS

IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION INCLUDED IN
SIMS.

- NRR AND RES WILL WORK MORE CLOSELY
TOGETHER TO ENSURE THE ISSUE
RESOLUTION AND IMPOSITION PACKAGES ARE
CLEAR AS TO WHAT IS REQUIRED AND
INCLUDE APPROPRIATE SCHEDULAR AND
RESOURCE INFORMATION.

NRR AND RES WILL EXPLORE WHETHER OR
NOT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO COMBINE
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS GENERIC
ISSUE RESOLUTION PACKAGES. IF
COMBINING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IS
BENEFICIAL, THEN THIS WILL BE DONE.

STATUS

EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY NRR AND RES TO
MEET THE INTENT OF THIS IMPROVEMENT.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- STAFF IMPROVEMENTS PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION IN 10/87 WERE SUPPORTED BY ACRS LETTER TO THE COMMISSION IN 4/88.

NRC IMPOSITION OF GI RESOLUTION

<u>GI TYPE</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>% COMPLETE</u>
TMI	14,206	89
HIGH	1578	92
MED	1262	99
LOW	764	99
OTHER	<u>2764</u>	75
TOTAL	20,574	

● IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITATE PLANT
IMPOSITION:

- ASSIGNMENT OF LEAD PM (FY88)
- IMPOSITION PLANNING/REVIEW ONLY
WHEN WARRANTED (FY88)
- SIMS TRACKING/SENIOR MANAGEMENT
REVIEW

LICENSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF GI RESOLUTION

<u>GI TYPE</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>% COMPLETE</u>
TMI	14,206	85
HIGH	1578	84
MED	1262	95
LOW	764	95
OTHER	<u>2764</u>	67
TOTAL	20,574	

- IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITATE PLANT IMPLEMENTATION:
 - NRC REVIEW ONLY WHEN WARRANTED (FY88)
 - LICENSEE CERTIFICATION OF IMPLEMENTATION (FY88)
 - SIMS TRACKING

VERIFICATION OF GI RESOLUTION
PLANT IMPLEMENTATION

<u>GI TYPE</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>% COMPLETE</u>
TMI	14,206	80
HIGH	1578	31
MED	1262	33
LOW	764	35
OTHER	<u>2764</u>	
21 TOTAL	20,574	

● IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITATE
VERIFICATION:

- DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT AND
WHAT TO INSPECT (FY88)
- DECISION ON TI/ROUTINE INSPECTION
(FY88)
- SIMS TRACKING