

D850920

Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Dr. Palladino:

SUBJECT: ACRS COMMENTS ON TURKEY POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 3
AUXILIARY FEEDWATER FAILURE

During its 305th meeting, September 12-14, 1985, the ACRS was briefed about the recent post-trip failures in the auxiliary feedwater system at Turkey Point, Unit 3. This plant has three supposedly independent and redundant auxiliary feedwater pumps. Nonetheless, during the event, two of these pumps failed and the third experienced a near-disabling component failure. Clearly, the provision of auxiliary feedwater is a critical safety function.

Whatever the ultimate determination of the proximate causes of these multiple failures (and we acknowledge that the facts are not yet in), this compromise of a major safety system is extremely disturbing. The event may well reflect, in the last analysis, a significant breakdown of the regulatory system.

We hope that exploration of the deeper implications of this event will be given very high priority. While we do not wish to prejudge the outcome, we do wish to convey our lively concern.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward
Chairman

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