



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 12 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: George Lear, Chief  
Structural and Geotechnical Engineering Branch  
Division of Engineering

FROM: David C. Jeng, Leader  
Structural Engineering Section A  
Structural and Geotechnical Engineering Branch  
Division of Engineering

SUBJECT: WATERFORD 3 BASE MAT CRACK ALLEGATIONS

Based on information obtained from the Waterford 3 project manager James Wilson and the enclosed documents, the status of the subject issue is highlighted below:

1. The alleged containment basemat cracking at Waterford 3 was reported in May 1983. The cracks were identified by the observation of a small amount of water percolating through the top of the mat at several locations. The cracks are not visible to the naked eyes.
2. Engineering studies were conducted by Ebasco, the A/E for the plant, to assess the potential impact of the alleged cracking on the structural integrity of the base mat.
3. NRC inspectors are monitoring the mat leakages and reviewing the results of the Ebasco studies. Furthermore, both NRC/I&E and Louisiana Power & Light have separately initiated independent assessment of the potential impact of the mat cracking and leakage upon its structural integrity.

Reports from these independent reviews are scheduled to be issued on September 1, 1983.

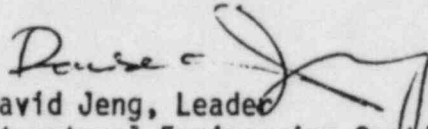
4. Both Senator J. Bennett Johnston and Representative Gillis Long have officially inquired about the allegation and requested NRC response on the issue. RIV has prepared a draft response to Rep. G. Long's inquiry on behalf of Mr. W. J. Dircks (see enclosure).

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5. It is our understanding that, presently, RIV and I&E have the lead responsibility on the issue. Pertinent DE technical branches have not been officially requested to participate in the resolution of the issue. We (SGEB) are prepared and will be able to offer timely assistance to RIV and I&E on the matter if and when such assistance is requested.

  
David Jeng, Leader  
Structural Engineering Section A  
Structural and Geotechnical  
Engineering Branch  
Division of Engineering

Enclosure: As stated

cc: R. Vollmer  
J. Knight  
J. Wilson  
P. Kuo  
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