

From: PAUL M. BLANCH <PMBLANCH@ix.netcom.com>
To: JZ <JAZWOL@aol.com>
Date: 9/15/96 5:28pm
Subject: CU-29

John:

The following is a draft and a final copy will follow shortly by = snail mail. This is absolutely incredible that this was knowingly = allowed to happen and that you allowed another dedicated engineer = ruin his career due to your intentional inactions.

Paul

9/15/96

John A. Zwolinski, Deputy Director Division of Reactor Projects -I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Washington, DC 20555-0001

John:

I read with interest the most recent OIG report on the Millstone Unit = 1 containment isolation valve CU-29. Just from reading this report = it has the appearance of extensive collusion between the NRC and NRR, = again. Not at all dissimilar to the Millstone Spent Fuel Pool. The = NRC knew about the problem for at least 20 years and conveniently = just looked the other way. When the NRC was forced to take some = action, Mr. Lieberman of your Office of Enforcement, imposed only the = smallest level of violation possible. The collusion appears to be = all the way from the Resident Inspectors up to and possibly above the = Director level of NRR.

Why is it that NRR failed to acknowledge the fact that not only was = CU-29 defective, but its back-up valve CU-28 would have also failed = during a seismic event? Why is it that it takes a non-technical = organization such as OIG to point out such obvious issues such as the = fact that CU-28 was not environmentally qualified and had a break = occurred in any of the defective welds in the Reactor Water Clean-up = System, MP-1 would have had a LOCA outside the containment. I know = this is outside your =B3Design Basis,=B2 but I would like to know the = consequences of this event. Would the doses be within the limits = specified by 10 CFR Part 100 and has this been formally reported to = the NRC? Why did NRR allow MP-1 to restart after RFO 13 knowing the = plant was in violation of its license?

The next question is a bit more difficult. As I understand the = issue, it was identified to the Region, NRR and your own Office of = Investigation. All of these divisions chose to =B3look the other = way,=B2 stick their head in the sand and somehow hope the issue would = go away. How many other issues similar to this have been suppressed = by the NRC= B9s intimidation by inaction? Some high level positions from Region 1 were discussed in this most = recent report. While names are not mentioned, I suspect that some of = these very same people are involved in the restart decisions for =

Millstone Unit 3. How can we have any faith that these very same = people will now =B3see the light= B2 and cease to cover-up major = safety issues such as this and the Spent Fuel Pool? Are these the = same people and organization that will make the final decision on the = =B3independence= B2 of the Millstone assessment team? I am sending a = copy of this note to Mr. Hub Miller (and others) and am asking to = respond to me directly on this issue.

John, the public has lost all confidence in your agency and it will = be a very long time before this confidence is restored. It is going = to take much more than just =B3retiring=B2 Bill Russell as the = problem and giving NU a hard time with the restart. You need to look = closely at your agency and somehow change the culture as NU is about = to do.
Sincerely,

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