

OCT 24 1996

PDR

MEMORANDUM TO: James T. Wiggins, Director, DRS, Region I
Albert F. Gibson, Director, DRS, Region II
Geoffrey E. Grant, Director, DRS, Region III
Thomas P. Gwynn, Director, DRS, Region IV

FROM: Gus C. Lainas, Acting Director
Division of Engineering, NRR

SUBJECT: STEAM GENERATOR TUBE REPAIR CRITERIA

Recently, we sent you a memo, dated 9/25/96, on the subject of Steam Generator Tube Repair Criteria. The memo discussed the issue of the repair criteria implemented by licensees particularly with respect to using qualified techniques to depth size eddy current indications.

It has come to my attention that EPRI has recently indicated that they completed a program to develop a qualified sizing technique for circumferential cracks. NRR is aware that this sizing technique may be implemented by licensees, but NRR has not reviewed the technique or its qualification. We believe that it is very difficult to depth size stress corrosion cracks reliably. Leaving circumferential steam generator tube cracks in service based on inspection results would be a precedent as far as NRR is aware and may have significant safety implications. I am requesting that you inform your inspectors to pay attention to this issue. If a licensee is relying on this technique for leaving indications in-service, the matter should be brought to the attention of NRR for further evaluation as soon as possible.

If you or your inspectors have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact me or the applicable NRR staff member (e.g. Ted Sullivan [(301) 415-3266; E-Mail: EJS] or Cheryl Beardslee [(301) 415-2751; E-Mail: CDB]).

Contact: C. Beardslee, EMB/NRR
415-2751

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