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R-420

LESSONS LEARNED FROM FULL REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM CHEMICAL DECONTAMINATION OF A PWR

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Objectives: To analyze and summarize the lessons learned from the full system decontamination (FSD) experience of Indian Point 2.

Comments: The lessons learned fall in three categories:

- * Planning and Organization
- Allow adequate time for planning.
- Consider alternatives.
- Undertake a comprehensive qualification program to determine the most effective solvent with acceptable corrosion impact.
- Integrate plant operations personnel into FSD planning team.
- Ensure equipment is well laid out, accessible and shielded.
- Ensure decon procedures are flexible while maintaining adequate process control.
- Ensure there are adequate technical support personnel.
- A utility decision maker should be available on each shift.
- Carry out artifact tests to determine effectiveness of the decon solvent.
- * Decontamination Equipment
- The decon process equipment (DPS) should be built to FSAR seismic requirements.
- Test equipment prior to shipping, modify any weaknesses.
- Locate control center in an area where there is minimum interference with operators during FSD.
- There should be redundant isolation valves between plant systems.

Remarks: (Lessons learned-continued)

- * Field Implementation
- Backwashable filters should be of good operational design.
- Capacity should be adequate for AP step, need large surface area.
- Filters should be bypassed for second AP step.
- Need a filter backwash holdup tank to reduce plant liquid radwaste.
- Avoid threaded fittings in high pressure systems, if subject to vibrations or shock loads.

BNL ALARA Center Data Base

R-420 U.S.A.

- Excellent coordination should be maintained between operations staff and decontamination

- Ensure all radiation monitors on the decon process system work.

- Proper calibration of monitors has been carried out.

- Preoperational functional testing should be required.

- Radwaste volume and disposal methods need to be addressed for improved cost efficiency.

Future full system decontaminations should be cost effective if all lessons learned are properly utilized.

References: Vandergriff, D., "Lessons Learned - Full System Decontamination," Proceedings, EPRI Radiation Field Control and Chemical Decontamination Seminar, Tampa, Florida, November 1995, EPRI Distribution Center, P.O. Box 23205, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

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