

N375. Advisers Ok NRC'S Steam Generator Repair Criteria

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) proposed final generic letter titled "Voltage-based Repair Criteria for Westinghouse Steam Generator Tubes" has received the approval of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). The letter provided an acceptable approach to ensure the integrity of tubing subject to axially oriented outside diameter stress corrosion cracking in Westinghouse steam generators with drilled-hole support plates.

The committee was pleased that the NRC decided to retain conservative lower limits for repair in view of the fact that the data base for the present empirical correlations of burst pressure, leakage, and bobbin coil voltage appears to be only marginally adequate. The ACRS once again noted that the NRC has not yet resolved a question raised in a differing professional opinion on the calculation of the radiological releases during a main steamline break. The committee said the NRC should go ahead with implementing the letter to prevent unnecessary tube repairs and reduce staff resources associated with plant-specific reviews. From the view of ALARA perspective, this also means less dose will be associated with plant workers.

For additional information see, "Advisers OK NRC's SG Repair Criteria," pp.19-20, Nuclear News, July 1995/VOL.38/No.9.