

June 28, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Ashok C. Thadani, Director **/RA/ T. King for:**
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: INITIAL SCREENING OF CANDIDATE GENERIC ISSUE #186,
"POTENTIAL RISK AND CONSEQUENCES OF HEAVY LOAD
DROPS IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS"

In accordance with Draft Management Directive (MD) 6.4, "Generic Issue Program," a Generic Issue Review Panel (Panel) Meeting was held to discuss the merits of candidate Generic Issue #186, "Potential Risk and Consequences of Heavy Load Drops in Nuclear Power Plants." The panel has completed the "Initial Screening Stage" (Stage 2) of the Generic Issue Program (GIP) as outlined in the draft MD. On May 23, 2000, a representative from NRR discussed the contents of the April 19, 1999 memorandum from Brian Sheron to Ashok Thadani, "Proposed Generic Safety Issue - Potential Risk and Consequences of Heavy Load Drops in Nuclear Power Plants." RES made a presentation involving crane operating experience and trends for the nuclear industry dating back to 1968. Information relating to affected licensees, potential safety issue solutions, regulations, industry initiatives and prior generic communications were discussed. Two followup panel meetings were held on May 25, 2000, and again on June 22, 2000, to obtain additional information.

Following the June 22, 2000 panel meeting, it was decided that the candidate generic issue should be classified as a potential safety enhancement issue and will proceed on to Stage 3 of the GIP, "Technical Screening." Stage 3 is a "quick" look at the candidate generic issue, using information that is readily available and with limited resources. The main purposes of Stage 3 is to perform additional reviews of the issue, determine if the issue should be designated an Unresolved Safety Issue, and identify a cost-effective solution. Stage 3 may also provide technical justification for dropping the issue if it is determined that it has little safety significance, would not result in a substantial safety enhancement, or is not cost justifiable.

Once the Stage 3 draft analyses is completed, it will be peer reviewed by NRC staff, after which the panel will be reconvened to address comments and make changes to the findings and recommended actions, as appropriate. Stage 3 will be complete when the Director of RES determines whether the candidate generic issue should be dropped or continued to the "Technical Assessment Stage" of the GIP (Stage 4).

If you have any questions regarding the candidate generic issue or the Initial Screening Stage of draft MD 6.4, please feel free to contact Jack E. Rosenthal, or Ronald L. Lloyd, 415-7479 of my staff.

cc:
F. Eltawila

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cc:
F. Eltawila
G. Holahan

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