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NRC STAFF ASKS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON FURTHER
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON ROSEMOUNT TRANSMITTERS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is issuing for public comment a draft bulletin that would require utilities that own NRC-licensed power reactors to take further actions on certain models of transmitters made by Rosemount, Inc., which potentially could fail because they are leaking oil.

Transmitters are widely used in many systems in nuclear power plants to measure pressure, level and flow. The failure of a transmitter because of loss of oil could, under worst-case conditions, result in degradation or failure of a plant safety system.

The NRC staff draft bulletin would supplement and expand on a bulletin issued in March 1990 requesting utilities to take corrective actions regarding certain models of these transmitters.

Since that time, the NRC staff has reviewed responses by licensees and data collected by the industry's Nuclear Management and Resources Council and concludes that a high operating pressure is the most dominant factor leading to a loss of fill-oil. The staff also believes that actions previously requested of licensees are insufficient to achieve a desired high functional reliability.

Accordingly, the staff is considering asking utilities with NRC licenses to review plant records of specified models and to replace or monitor transmitters that are not achieving high functional reliability.

Under the draft bulletin, the NRC staff would further request that licensees evaluate their monitoring program to ensure that it is consistent with Rosemount's guidelines for determining degradation caused by a loss of fill-oil.

Utilities building nuclear power plants would be asked to take similar steps for assuring high functional reliability of certain Rosemount transmitters.

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Comments on the draft bulletin should be sent to Chief, Rules and Directives Review Branch, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555 within 30 days after publication in the Federal Register on April 7.

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