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NRC STAFF ISSUES 1992 ANNUAL POWER REACTOR REPORT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD) has issued its 1992 annual report on its review and assessment of the operating experience of the nuclear power reactor industry.

Conclusions reached on industry performance come from the NRC's performance indicator and accident sequence precursor program.

Data from the performance indicator program are obtained from seven indicators: the number of unplanned reactor scrams while the reactor is critical, the number of safety system actuations, safety system failures, the number of significant events, forced outage rates, the number of equipment-forced outages per 1,000 hours that a reactor is critical and the collective radiation exposures per plant.

Comparative evaluations of these data over the most recent years support the observation that, on a nationwide basis, performance indicators are stabilizing. However, one of the indicators, safety system actuations, continues to exhibit a significant improving trend. Equipment forced outages improved in 1992, but the forced-outage rate has been erratic over the last five years. Scrams, significant events and collective radiation exposures have remained essentially constant for the last two years. Safety system failures have stabilized.

The accident sequence precursor program, which quantitatively evaluates operational experience, indicates some improvement took place during the last eight years.

Copies of the report, NUREG-1272, Vol. 7, No. 1, can be purchased from the Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, DC 20013-7982.

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