No. 92-194 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tel. 301-504-2240 (Wednesday, December 30, 1992)

NRC STAFF REQUESTS ADDITIONAL ACTIONS BE TAKEN ON ROSEMOUNT TRANSMITTERS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has asked utilities owning nuclear power plants licensed for operation by the NRC or under construction to take additional actions on certain models of transmitters manufactured by Rosemount, Inc., which potentially could fail because they are leaking oil.

The directive supplements an earlier one issued in March 1990 and an "Information Notice" advisory regarding certain models of these transmitters issued in April 1989.

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

Specifically, licensees are to identify specified models of the Rosemount transmitter manufactured before July 11, 1989, that are used, or may be used in the future, in either safety-related systems or systems governed by the NRC's anticipated-transient-without-scram" (ATWS) requirements and:

(1) Expeditiously replace or monitor, for the life of the transmitter on a monthly basis using an enhanced surveillance monitoring program, any of the subject transmitters that have a normal operating pressure of 1500 pounds per square inch and that are installed in reactor protection trip systems, emergency safety function actuation systems or ATWS systems.

(2) Replace or monitor, for the life of the transmitter on a quarterly basis using an enhanced surveillance monitoring program, any transmitters that have a normal operating pressure greater than 1500 pounds per square inch and are used in safety-related applications other than those specified above.

(3) For boiling water reactors, replace or monitor, on a monthly basis using an enhanced surveillance monitoring program until the transmitter reaches a specified criterion recommended by Rosemount, any transmitters that have a normal operating

pressure greater than 500 pounds per square inch and less than or equal to 1500 pounds per square inch and are installed in reactor protection trip systems, emergency safety function actuation systems or ATWS systems. For pressurized water reactors, the above is to be performed at least once every refueling cycle or at least every 24 months.

(4) Replace or monitor, at least once every refueling cycle or at least every 24 months using an enhanced surveillance monitoring program until the transmitter reaches a specified criterion recommended by Rosemount, any transmitters used in safety-related systems that have a normal operating pressure greater than 500 pounds per square inch and less than or equal to 1500 pounds per square inch and not are not installed in reactor protection trip systems, emergency safety function actuation systems or ATWS systems.

(5) Evaluate the enhanced monitoring program to ensure that it provides measurement data with an accuracy range consistent with that needed for comparison with Rosemount's criteria for determining degradation caused by loss of fill-oil.

(6) Advise the NRC staff, with 60 days, if the actions are to be taken and a list of the specific actions to be taken, a schedule for completing them and advise the NRC staff when the actions are completed.

Holders of construction permits are to complete the actions before loading fuel into their reactors.

#