

June 24, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: John A. Grobe, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety, Region III

FROM: Farouk Eltawila, Director/**RA by Charles E. Ader for/**  
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: GENERIC ISSUE 193: BWR ECCS SUCTION CONCERNS

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) has reviewed the information on the proposed generic issue submitted in your May 10, 2002, memorandum to Scott Newberry which addresses the concern for the possible failure of ECCS due to unanticipated, large quantities of entrained gas in the suction piping from BWR suppression pools. The issue applies to MARK I or II containments during large- or medium-break LOCAs, and could potentially cause pump failure or degraded performance due to gas binding, vapor locking, or cavitation. RES has concluded that adequate information has been provided for an initial screening of the issue to begin, in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Management Directive 6.4, "Generic Issues Program." Accordingly, the issue has been assigned the number 193 for tracking purposes.

The RES screening may require estimating: (1) the safety benefit of the issue, and (2) the cost of developing and implementing a solution. RES will need to consult with the Region III contact, John Jacobson, on an ongoing basis in the collection and explanation of the information generated so far on the subject. It is expected that our screening will be completed by the end of October 2002. All questions on the status of the GSI should be directed to Ronald C. Emrit, 415-6447.

cc: J. Jacobson, Region III  
S. Newberry

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