

February 19, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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

SUBJECT: GENERIC ISSUE MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM
REPORT – FIRST QUARTER FY 2003

The Generic Issue Management Control System (GIMCS) Report for the First Quarter of FY 2003 is attached for your information. Significant progress was made during the reporting period on the following generic safety issues (GSIs):

REACTOR GSIs

GSI-80, Pipe Break Effects on CRD Hydraulic Lines in the Drywells of BWR Mark 1 and II Containments: The analysis of this issue was revised in December 2002 to include a consideration of uncertainties with the use of the SAPHIRE model. The revised analysis was approved on February 14, 2003, and the issue will require technical assessment.

GSI-156.6.1, Pipe Break Effects on Systems and Components: The Information Systems Laboratories (ISL) review of BWROG comments on the INEEL analysis of the GSI was completed in December 2002. ISL concluded that risk estimates contained in the INEEL analysis were overly conservative. A meeting will be held in February 2003 to discuss options for proceeding with the issue.

GSI-186, Potential Risk and Consequences of Heavy Load Drops in Nuclear Power Plants: A draft report on the potential risk and consequences of heavy load drops in nuclear power plants was reviewed by NRR, the Regions, and the nine plants that were visited to obtain heavy load lift operating experience. The report will be updated to include U.S. commercial nuclear operating experience through 2002. RES plans to publish the report as a NUREG in April 2003 to support recommendations that will be made to address the safety concerns of the issue.

GSI-189, Susceptibility of Ice Condenser Containments to Early Failure from Hydrogen Combustion During a Severe Accident: Following ACRS agreement with the staff's approach in November 2002 the technical assessment of the issue was completed in December 2002. RES concluded that further action to provide back-up power to one train of igniters is warranted for

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plants with ice condenser or MARK III containments. The issue was transferred to NRR in December 2002 with the recommendation that the staff engage the affected stakeholders in developing additional information related to implementing various alternatives, including an option of using the severe accident management guidelines.

GSI-194, Implications of Updated Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Estimates: A technical analysis of the issue was completed in December 2002 and circulated to a three-man panel of experts that was selected to screen the issue. The panel had its initial meeting on January 28, 2003, and agreed that the results of the IPEEE reviews need to be considered further before any decision is made on the GSI. The panel is expected to meet again at the end of February 2003 to determine whether the issue will require technical assessment.

At the end of the reporting period, seven reactor GSIs remained to be resolved, including three GSIs that were transferred from RES to NRR for regulation and guidance development (see Table 1). One GSI remained to be reprioritized (see Table 6) and three GSIs remained to be screened (see Table 9).

NON-REACTOR GSIs

No new non-reactor GSIs were identified and, at the end of the reporting period, three non-reactor GSIs remained to be resolved (see Table 14).

I will continue to keep you informed of progress in resolving the remaining unresolved reactor and non-reactor GSIs as well as any major problems that might surface during the course of their resolution.

Attachment: GIMCS Report, January 2003

cc w/o att.:

J. Strosnider, RES
 J. Rosenthal, RES
 M. Mayfield, RES
 J. Vora, RES
 F. Cherny, RES
 P. Norian, RES
 S. Collins, NRR
 B. Sheron, NRR

G. Holahan, NRR
 J. Zwolinski, NRR
 M. Fields, NRR
 J. Birmingham, NRR
 M. Virgilio, NMSS
 M. Federline, NMSS
 I. Cabrera, NMSS
 M. Markley, NMSS

W. Usilton, IRM
 J. Bell, IRM
 H. Miller, Region I
 L. Reyes, Region II
 J. Dyer, Region III
 E. Merschoff, Region IV
 J. Larkins, ACRS
 S. Duraiswamy, ACRS

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