

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 4, 1995

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 95-45: AMERICAN POWER SERVICE FALSIFICATION OF
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING
(ASNT) CERTIFICATES

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this information notice to alert addressees that American Power Service (APS) of Georgetown, Massachusetts, has deliberately given falsified American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) certificates to an NRC licensee in connection with the procurement of commercial-grade services. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems. However, suggestions contained in this information notice are not NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances

In response to information submitted by the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECo), the NRC recently investigated APS, a vendor that provides commercial-grade services for the resurfacing of babbitt material on bearings. The NRC determined that the president of APS deliberately and improperly falsified ASNT certificates and gave them to NNECo.

Discussion

On March 4, 1994, NNECo advised the NRC by letter (Accession Number 9403150377) that on February 15, 1994, it had received apparently falsified certificates from APS. NNECo had contracted with APS for commercial-grade services in supplying rebabbitted bearings for a Millstone Unit No. 2 reactor building closed cooling water system pump. Since APS did not have a NNECo approved quality assurance program, the rebabbitted bearings were to be dedicated and accepted under NNECo's quality assurance program. The dedication process included ultrasonic examination which was to be performed by NNECo as part of the receiving inspection.

PDR I & E Notice 95-045 951004

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10/5/95

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During NNECo source inspection of APS, the APS president informed the NNECo Quality Assessment Services (QAS) inspector that APS had developed in-house ultrasonic testing capability and gave the inspector copies of what appeared to be ASNT certificates identifying three of the company's employees as ultrasonic testing inspectors or examiners. Upon observing that the certificates had identical serial numbers, the NNECo QAS inspector contacted ASNT and learned that ASNT had not issued the certificates in question.

NNECo informed NRC of its findings in the March 4, 1994, letter, (Accession Number 9403150377). The NRC Office of Investigations determined that the president of APS deliberately and improperly falsified ASNT certificates and gave them to NNECo. NRC informed APS of its finding by letter dated February 14, 1995 (Accession Number 9502160007).

Since APS was performing a commercial-grade service and since the acceptance of the bearings was based on ultrasonic testing performed by NNECo, the integrity of the bearings was not compromised and NNECo was able to justify their use in the intended application.

This information notice requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact the technical contact listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager.


Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical contact: Uldis Potapovs
(301) 415-2959

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List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

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LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
 NRC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
95-44	Ensuring Compatible Use of Drive Cables Incorporating Industrial Nuclear Company Ball-Type Male Connectors	09/25/95	All Radiography Licensees.
95-43	Failure of the Bolt-Locking Device on the Reactor Coolant Pump Turning Vane	09/28/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors designed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation (W).
95-42	Commission Decision on the Resolution of Generic Issue 23, "Reactor Coolant Pump Seal Failure"	09/22/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-41	Degradation of Ventilation System Charcoal Resulting from Chemical Cleaning of Steam Generators	09/22/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-40	Supplemental Information to Generic Letter 95-03, "Circumferential Cracking of Steam Generator Tubes"	09/20/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-39	Brachytherapy Incidents Involving Treatment Planning Errors	09/19/95	All U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Medical Licensees.
95-38	Degradation of Boraflex Neutron Absorber in Spent Fuel Storage Racks	09/08/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-37	Inadequate Offsite Power System Voltages during Design-Basis Events	09/07/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-36	Potential Problems with Post-Fire Emergency Lighting	08/29/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.

OL = Operating License
 CP = Construction Permit

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orig /s/'d by DMCrutchfield
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DOCUMENT NAME: 95-45.IN

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DATE	5/18/95		5/04/95		5/24/95		5/31/95		5/31/95
OFFICE	*C/TSIB:DOTS		*D/DOTS		*C/OECB:DOPS		*PECB:DRPM		*C/PECB:DRPM
NAME	RGallo		RSpessard		RDennig		RKiessel		AChaffee
DATE	6/01/95		6/01/95		6/02/95		09/14/95		09/20/95
OFFICE	D/DRPM								
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DATE	1/26/95								

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NAME	RGallo		RSpessard		RDennig		RKiesel		ACHaffee	
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NAME	RGallo		RSpessard		RDennig		RKiessel		ACHaffee
DATE	6/01/95		6/01/95		6/02/95		9/17/95		/ /95 JSB
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Brian K. Grimes, Director
 Division of Project Support
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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 (301) 415-2959

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NAME	<i>RGa</i>		RSpessard		RDennig <i>NRC</i>		RKiessel	ACHaffee
DATE	6/1/95		6/1/95		6/02/95		1/95	1/95
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The NRC investigation substantiated the information provided by NNECo. The investigation determined that the president of APS deliberately and improperly falsified ASNT certificates and gave them to NNECo.

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DATE	/ /95	/ /95	/ /95	/ /95	/ /95
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DATE	/ /95				

No legal objection

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The NRC investigation substantiated the information provided by NNECo. The investigation determined that the President of APS and two APS employees deliberately and improperly provided false ASNT certificates to NNECo.

Since APS was providing a commercial grade service and the acceptance of the bearings was based on ultrasonic testing performed by NNECo, the integrity of the bearings was not compromised and NNECo was able to justify their use in the intended application.

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