



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

July 8, 1991

TO ALL FUEL CYCLE FACILITY LICENSEES WHO POSSESS, USE, IMPORT, OR EXPORT
FORMULA QUANTITIES OF STRATEGIC SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: EXPLOSIVES SEARCHES AT PROTECTED AREA PORTALS
(GENERIC LETTER 91-10)

This generic letter is being issued to advise you of the results of a recently completed study conducted by Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The classified study is entitled "Personnel and Package Screening Using a Walk-Through Type Explosives Detector."

Under 10 CFR 73.46, licensees are required to conduct explosives searches of personnel and hand-carried packages prior to entry into the protected area. It is common practice for personnel to bring hand-carried packages into walk-through or portal explosives detectors. This enables a licensee to meet the personnel and package explosives search requirements concurrently. This procedure is acceptable to the NRC in meeting the explosives search requirements of paragraph 73.46. Packages of a questionable nature are typically searched with a hand-held explosives detector or via a "hands-on" search.

Results of the SNL study indicate an improved search methodology can be achieved by directing personnel passing into an explosives detection portal to hold hand-carried packages (1) in front of them, (2) a few inches from the body, (3) at waist level, and (4) opened.

Furthermore, for the specific portal explosives detection equipment installed at fuel cycle facilities using or possessing a formula quantity of strategic special nuclear material, improved equipment performance over that acceptable to the NRC may be achieved by operating the equipment in the "high sensitivity" mode as opposed to the "fast" mode (current practice). Alternatively, supplemental monitoring of the detector output voltage signal during the "fast" mode also has the potential for achieving improved equipment performance.

Addressees may wish to review their procedures for conducting protected area explosives searches in view of this guidance.

No specific actions or written responses are required by this generic letter. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact P. Dwyer, (301) 492-0478.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Burnett, Director
Division of Safeguards
and Transportation, NMSS

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JUN 25 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert F. Burnett, Director
Division of Safeguards
and Transportation, NMSS

FROM: Theodore S. Sherr, Chief
Domestic Safeguards Branch
Division of Safeguards
and Transportation, NMSS

SUBJECT: EXPLOSIVES SEARCHES AT PROTECTED AREA PORTALS

Enclosed for your signature is a generic letter on the subject matter to be transmitted to Category I fuel fabrication licensees. No specific action is required on the part of licensees in response to this letter. The guidance provided is not enforceable. Its implementation (at licensees' discretion) may increase the time to explosives search individuals to varying degrees.

A copy of the generic letter, in draft form, was provided to RSGB/NRR. Phil McKee stated RSGB would handle the issue separately from SGTR and would most likely issue an information notice on the subject. We believe that the issuance of a generic letter is consistent with the safety significance of the issue. Further, it is consistent with our past practice.

Original Signed by
Theodore S. Sherr

Theodore S. Sherr, Chief
Domestic Safeguards Branch
Division of Safeguards
and Transportation, NMSS

Enclosure:
As stated

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6/24/91	6/24/91	6/25/91	6/26/91

Recipients.

James Noel, Babcock & Wilcox, NNFD
Lynchburg, VA

Jerry Stutz, Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc
Erwin, TN

Richard Gigliotti, UNC Naval Products
Uncasville, CT

Richard Keimig, NRC Region I
Dave McGuire, NRC, Region II
Jim Creed, NRC, Region III
Chuck Cain, NRC, Region IV
Doug Schuster, NRC Region V

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED GENERIC LETTERS

Generic Letter No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued To
88-20 SUPP. 4	INDIVIDUAL PLANT EXAMINATION OF EXTERNAL EVENTS (IPEEE) FOR SEVERE ACCIDENT VULNERABILITIES - 10 CFR 50.54 (f)	06/28/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OLS AND CPs FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS
91-09	MODIFICATION OF SURVEILLANCE INTERVAL FOR THE ELECTRICAL PROTECTIVE ASSEMBLIES IN POWER SUPPLIES FOR THE REACTOR PROTECTION SYSTEM	06/27/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OLS FOR BWRs
91-08	REMOVAL OF COMPONENT LISTS FROM TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	05/06/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OLS OR CPs FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS
91-07	61-23 "REACTOR COOLANT PUMP SEAL FAILURES" AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON STATION BLACKOUT	05/02/91	ALL POWER REACTOR LICENSEES AND HOLDERS OF CPs
91-06	RESOLUTION OF GENERIC ISSUE A-30, "ADEQUACY OF SAFETY-RELATED DC POWER SUPPLIED," PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 50.54(f)	04/29/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OLS
91-05	LICENSEE COMMERCIAL-GRADE PROCUREMENT AND DEDICATION PROGRAMS	04/09/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OLS AND CPs FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS
91-04	CHANGES IN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION SURVEILLANCE INTERVALS TO ACCOMMODATE A 24-MONTH FUEL CYCLE	04/02/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OLS OR CPs FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS
91-03	REPORTING OF SAFEGUARDS EVENTS	03/06/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OLS OR CPs FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS AND ALL OTHER LICENSED ACTIVITIES INVOLVING A FORMULA QUANTITY OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL (SNM)
91-02	REPORTING MISHAPS INVOLVING LLW FORMS PREPARED FOR DISPOSAL	12/28/90	ALL OPERATORS OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE (LLW) DISPOSAL SITES, WASTE PROCESSORS, & ALL HOLDERS OF LICENSES FOR NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR MATERIALS & NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS