

File

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

May 5, 1988

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 88-20: UNAUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS MANIPULATING
CONTROLS AND PERFORMING CONTROL ROOM
ACTIVITIES

Addressees:

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power, test and research reactors, and all licensed operators.

Purpose:

This information notice is being provided to alert addressees to potential problems resulting from unauthorized persons manipulating controls and performing control room activities. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems. However, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

On September 13, 1987, with Turkey Point Unit 3 at 30% power, a non-licensed individual (who was not enrolled in an operator training program) under the direct supervision of a licensed operator turned the reactor control make-up switch to "start" on two occasions in close succession. At the time of the event, a 30% power flux map was in progress. Negative reactivity was being added to the reactor because of xenon buildup. To minimize flux distortion, control rod motion was being minimized, and the negative reactivity insertion from the xenon buildup was being countered by lowering the boron concentration in the RCS (dilution). The dilution was being performed by periodically adding preset quantities of non-borated water to the RCS. The licensed operator preset the non-borated water quantity to 30 gallons, then permitted the non-licensed individual to turn the reactor control make-up switch to the "start" position. The system response to the 30-gallon dilution was not sufficient, and the above evolution was repeated, with the non-borated water quantity preset by the licensed operator at 20 gallons. The licensed operator directly supervised both dilutions. This event is discussed further in Licensee Event Report (LER) 250/87-024 (Voluntary Report).

The NRC resident inspectors at Braidwood were informed of a similar event by that facility's licensee. An individual licensed at another facility (but not enrolled in an operator training program) was temporarily contracted to Braidwood as an equipment attendant. On September 20, 1987, this individual was allowed to manipulate the controls on the Unit 1 reactor for a dilution of the RCS and for a control rod movement.

No serious consequences occurred from either of these events. However, these incidents are contrary to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(i) and 10 CFR 55.3 because these actions directly affected the reactivity and power of the reactor, and the individuals performing the actions did not meet the exemption requirements of 10 CFR 55.13. (10 CFR 55.13 allows an individual, under the direction and in the presence of a licensed operator, to manipulate the controls of a facility as a part of the individual's training in a facility licensee's training program.) Because neither individual was enrolled in an approved operator training program, the exemption requirements of 10 CFR 55.13 were not satisfied.

Discussion:

The events discussed above are contrary to 10 CFR Parts 50 and 55. Addressees may wish to ensure that they are familiar with these requirements. In addition, the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55 were revised in 1987 and made effective on May 26, 1987. These revisions, as well as other relevant information, are discussed in NUREG-1262, "Answers to Questions at Public Meetings Regarding Implementation of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 55 on Operators' Licenses," published in November 1987.* A copy of this document was provided to all power and non-power reactor licensees and applicants for licenses by Generic Letter 87-16. Addressees who have not already done so may wish to obtain and review a copy of NUREG-1262 to ensure that they are familiar with the revisions made to 10 CFR Part 55.

The NRC has required individuals licensed at near-term operating license (NTOL) facilities to obtain operational experience at like facilities through cooperative arrangements. Nothing in this information notice is intended to preclude such arrangements.

*A copy of NUREG-1262 can be ordered by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Post Office Box 37082, Washington, D.C. 20013-7082, or by calling (202) 275-2060.

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No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the technical contact listed below or the Regional Administrator of the appropriate regional office.


Charles E. Rossi, Director
Division of Operational Events Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical Contact: John N. Hannon, NRR
(301) 492-1031

Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
NPC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
88-19	Questionable Certification of Class 1E Components	4/26/88	All holders of Ols or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-18	Malfunction of Lockbox on Radiography Device	4/25/88	All NRC licensees authorized to manufacture, distribute, and/or operate radiographic exposure devices.
88-17	Summary of Responses to NRC Bulletin 87-01, "Thinning of Pipe Walls in Nuclear Power Plants"	4/22/88	All holders of Ols or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-16	Identifying Waste Generators in Shipments of Low-Level Waste to Land Disposal Facilities	4/22/88	Radioactive waste collection and service company licensees handling prepackaged waste, and licensees operating low-level waste disposal facilities.
88-15	Availability of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-Approved Potassium Iodide for Use in Emergencies Involving Radioactive Iodine	4/18/88	Medical, Academic, and Commercial licensees who possess radioactive iodine.
88-14	Potential Problems with Electrical Relays	4/18/88	All holders of Ols or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-13	Water Hammer and Possible Piping Damage Caused by Misapplication of Kerotest Packless Metal Diaphragm Globe Valves	4/18/88	All holders of Ols or CPs for nuclear power reactors.

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit

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*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

*OGCB:DOEA:NRR
JRamsey
04/25/88

*LOLB:DLPQ:NRR
LWiens
04/22/88

*LOLB:DLPQ:NRR
JHannon
04/22/88


D/DOEA-NRR
CERossi
04/29/88
*D/DLPQ:NRR
JRoe
04/26/88

*C/OGCB:DOEA:NRR
CHBerlinger
04/28/88
*PPMB:ARM
TechEd
02/17/88

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JR
OGCB:DOEA:NRR
JRamsley
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LW
LOLB:DLPO:NRR
LWiens
04/27/88

JH
LOLB:DLPO:NRR
JHannon
04/27/88

D/DOEA:NRR
CERossi
04/ /88
D/OLPO:NRR
JRoe
04/20/88

CHB
C/OGCB:DOEA:NRR
CHBerlinger
04/28/88
*PPMB:ARM
TechEd
02/17/88

individual was allowed to manipulate the controls on the Unit 1 reactor for a dilution of the RCS, and for a control rod movement.

No serious consequences occurred from these events; however, these incidents appear to be contrary to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54.j and 10 CFR 55.3 since these actions directly affected the reactivity and power of the reactor, and the individuals performing the actions did not meet the exemption requirements of 10 CFR 55.13 (10 CFR 55.13 allows an individual, under the direction and in the presence of a licensed operator or senior operator, to manipulate the controls of a facility as a part of the individual's training in a facility licensee's training program). Since neither individual was enrolled in an approved operator training program at the affected facility, it appears that the the exemption requirements of 10 CFR 55.13 were not satisfied.

Discussion:

The requirements of 10 CFR Part 55 were revised in 1987, and made effective on May 26, 1987. The occurrence of these events indicates that addressees need to be reminded of the revisions that were made to 10 CFR Part 55. The revisions, as well as other relevant information, are discussed in NUREG-1262, "Answers to Questions at Public Meetings Regarding Implementation of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 55 on Operators" Licenses," published in November 1987,* a copy of which was provided to all power and non-power reactor licensees and applicants for licenses by Generic Letter 87-16. Addressees that have not already done so may wish to obtain and review a copy of NUREG-1262 to ensure compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55. In addition, it is recognized that the NRC has required individuals licensed at near term operating license (NTOL) facilities to obtain operational experience at like facilities through cooperative arrangements. Nothing in this Information Notice is intended to preclude such arrangements.

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OGCB:DOEA:NRR JRamsey 02/ /88	LOLB:DLPQ:NRR LWiens 02/ /88	LOLB:DLPQ:NRR JHannon 02/ /88	D/DLPQ:NRR JRoe 02/ /88	OGC 02/ /88