

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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IE Information Notice No. 80-14

SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FROM EMPLOYEES

On February 29, 1980, the NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement issued an instruction to NRC inspectors on the handling of safety suggestions received from licensee employees during inspections. A copy of the instruction, Temporary Instruction No. 1210/1, is enclosed.

The purpose of this instruction is to reaffirm to inspectors that they must be sensitive to the safety concerns of employees. We encourage employees to attempt resolution of their safety concerns through the normal communication channels to their supervisors and managers. Nevertheless, there are instances where an employee apparently feels more comfortable expressing his or her safety concerns to an NRC inspector. In these cases, the inspector will follow the practices described in the enclosed instruction.

We suggest that licensees post this Information Notice and the enclosed instruction in an area where employees can read them.

Enclosure:
IE Temporary Instruction
No. 1210/1

SAFETY SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED DURING INSPECTIONS

During inspections, inspectors may receive safety suggestions relating to plant conditions or operations from licensee employees. Inspectors must be receptive to such suggestions and should attempt to resolve or deal with each one received. Even in those cases where the suggestion would require a licensee to do more than is required by NRC regulations, license conditions, or technical specifications, the inspector should discuss the suggestion with the employee and provide, to the best of the inspector's ability, the options that are available.

Depending upon the nature of the suggestion, some possible courses of action are as follows:

1. Encourage the employee to forward the suggestion in writing to plant management and, if appropriate, to the NRC.
2. For matters clearly under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency, or a state or local agency, encourage the employee to contact the appropriate agency, or offer to bring the information to the attention of the proper official.
3. Inform the employee that the matter will be evaluated and, if appropriate, brought to the attention of NRC management.

It is important that an employee proffering a suggestion related to safety be made aware that the NRC is interested in such suggestions and they will be pursued.

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Enclosure

RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued To
80-13	General Electric Type SBM Control Switches - Defective Cam Followers	4/2/80	All light water reactor facilities holding power reactor OLs or CPs
80-12	Instrument Failure Causes Opening of PORV and Block Valve	3/31/80	All holders of power reactor OLs and CPs
80-11	General Problems with ASCO Valves in Nuclear Application Including Fire Protection Systems	3/14/80	All holders of Reactor OL, CP, fuel fabrication and processing facilities
80-10	Partial Loss of Non-Nuclear Instrument System Power Supply During Operation	3/7/80	All power reactor facilities holding OLs and CPs
80-09	Possible Occupational Health Hazard Associated with Closed Cooling Systems	3/7/80	All holders of power reactor OLs and near term CPs
80-08	The States Company Sliding Link Electrical Terminal Block	3/7/80	All power reactor facilities with an OL or a CP
80-07	Pump Shaft Fatigue Cracking	2/29/80	All Light Water Reactor Facilities holder power reactor OLs and CPs
80-06	Notification of Significant Events	2/27/80	All holders of Reactor OLs and to near term OL applicants
80-05	Chloride Contamination of Safety Related Piping	2/8/80	All licensees of nuclear power reactor facilities and applicants and holders of nuclear power reactor CPs
80-04	BWR Fuel Exposure in Excess of Limits	2/4/80	All BWR's holding a power reactor OL or CP