

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

May 30, 1985

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 85-44: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM MONTHLY TEST

Addressees:

All nuclear power reactor facilities holding an operating license and NFS Erwin, General Atomics, UNC Montville, B&W LCR Lynchburg, and B&W Lynchburg.

Purpose:

This information notice is being issued to bring malfunctions of the communication system to the attention of licensees and remind them of their responsibility to test required communication systems in accordance with 10 CFR 50. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, if appropriate, to preclude a similar problem occurring at their facilities. However, suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Discussion:

Section 50.54(q) of Part 50 requires licensees to follow emergency plans which meet the requirements of Appendix E to Part 50. Section IV.E.9.d of Appendix E requires monthly tests of provisions for communicating with NRC from the control room, the Technical Support Center, and the Emergency Operations Facility. Licensee emergency plans might contain additional testing requirements.

Emergency preparedness exercises and specific tests by NRC Headquarters Operations Officers have identified serious communication malfunctions, which were previously undetected because of inadequate monthly testing. In most of those cases, neither the Emergency Notification System (ENS) nor Health Physics Network (HPN) telephones were found to have been tested routinely.

This Information Notice reminds licensees of their responsibility for satisfying the requirement for monthly testing of the ENS and HPN telephones. The NRC is responsible for testing ENS and HPN telephones located in the NRC Resident Inspector's office and for testing the link between the NRC Operations Center and the Regional Office Operations Center since communications with the licensee via HPN and ENS are completed through the Headquarters Operations Center.

This Information Notice also clarifies that violations in this area may be categorized at Severity Level III, and civil penalties may be considered.

Compliance with the regulation cited above may be achieved through implementation of the testing scheme shown in Attachment 1.

The primary system for emergency communications with the NRC is a combination of the ENS and the HPN. Licensees should note that the backup means of communications for a given link is not required to be tested unless the primary system is not available.

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



Edward L. Jordan, Director  
Division of Emergency Preparedness  
and Engineering Response  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Technical Contact: H. M. Hawkins, IE  
301-492-4145

Attachments:

1. Testing of Emergency Communications Links  
Between Licensees and NRC
2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

TESTING OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS LINKS BETWEEN LICENSEES AND NRC

The matrix below indicates the primary modes of operation for the NRC communications links which are to be tested monthly by the licensee.

| FROM                          | TO                   |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
|                               | <u>Headquarters*</u> |
| Control Room                  | ENS only             |
| Technical Support Center      | ENS and HPN          |
| Emergency Operations Facility | ENS and HPN          |

ENS = Emergency Notification System

HPN = Health Physics Network

\* Communication between the Licensee and appropriate Regional NRC Office will always be completed through the Headquarters Operations Center. The communications link between the Headquarters Operations Center and the Regional Office is tested by NRC.

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED  
 IE INFORMATION NOTICES

| Information Notice No. | Subject  | Date of Issue | Issued to   |
|------------------------|--|---------------|---|
| 85-43                  | Radiography Events At Power Reactors   | 5/30/85       | All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP          |
| 85-42                  | Loose Phosphor In Panasonic 800 Series Badge Thermo-luminescent Dosimeter (TLD) Elements | 5/29/85       | All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP          |
| 85-41                  | Scheduling Of Pre-Licensing Emergency Preparedness Exercises                             | 5/24/85       | All power reactor facilities holding a CP                 |
| 85-40                  | Deficiencies In Equipment Qualification Testing And Certification Process                | 5/22/85       | All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP          |
| 85-39                  | Auditability of Electrical Equipment Qualification Records At Licensees' Facilities      | 5/22/85       | All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP          |
| 85-38                  | Loose Parts Obstruct Control Rod Drive Mechanism   | 5/21/85       | All PWR facilities designed by B&W holding an OL or CP    |
| 85-37                  | Chemical Cleaning Of Steam Generator At Milestone 2                                      | 5/14/85       | All pressure water reactor facilities holding an OL or CP |
| 84-55<br>Sup. 1        | Seal Table Leaks At PWRs   | 5/14/85       | All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP          |
| 85-20<br>Sup. 1        | Motor-Operated Valve Failures Due To Hammering Effect                                    | 5/14/85       | All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP          |

OL = Operating License  
 CP = Construction Permit