

NOV 30 1989

To: All Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Licensees,
Applicants, and (Dry Storage) Vendors

Gentlemen:

The enclosed "NRC Information Notice No. 89-75: Falsification of
Welder Qualifications for Contractor Employees," is provided for
your information. No specific action or written response is required.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

John P. Roberts

John P. Roberts, Section Leader
Irradiated Fuel Section
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch

Enclosure:
As stated

Distribution: Identical letter was sent to the attached list
NRC File Center IMNS Central File IMIF R/F NMSS R/F IMSB R/F
JRoberts FSturz JSchneider GLSjoblom FBrown

OFC : IMIF	: IMIF	:	:	:	:	:
NAME: FBrown:fb	: JRoberts	:	:	:	:	:
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

November 20, 1989

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 89-75: FALSIFICATION OF WELDER QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES

Addressees:

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

Purpose:

This information notice is intended to alert addressees to potential problems related to the need to assure that welding personnel hired to perform activities affecting safety are properly qualified in accordance with ASME Code requirements. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and activities, and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems. However, suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

In 1984, Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) hired Southwestern Engineering Company (SECO) to modify and install moisture separator reheater (MSR) internals at the licensee's North Anna and Surry Nuclear Power Stations in late 1984 and early 1985. SECO, in turn, formed a joint venture with Powerplant Specialists, Inc. (PSI) for craft labor (boilermakers, welders, etc.) to perform the work. Welder qualification for the MSR projects was to be completed in accordance with the specifications set forth in Section IX of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. Investigation activities by NRC, prompted by an allegation, revealed that 16 of the 45 boilermaker/welder personnel utilized for the VEPCO projects were properly tested and certified by an authorized, independent testing facility. Although Welder Qualification Test (WQT) records were completed by PSI for the remaining 29 welder personnel, indicating that the test welds were prepared, welded, and tested in accordance with the requirements of Section IX of the ASME Code, the investigation revealed that company officials intentionally falsified the welders' records by certifying them without requiring the proficiency tests.

Discussion:

It is important to note that it is the responsibility of each licensee to assure that welders assigned to nuclear power plant tasks, whether or not

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(SPP)

the tasks are categorized as safety-related, are qualified to the appropriate standard. In the specific circumstances cited above, the welder qualification records were falsified by PSI to the licensee through SECO, and recipients of this notice should be aware of the potential for this situation at their facilities.

This information notice requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact one of the technical contacts listed below or the appropriate NRR project manager.



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

Technical Contact: Gregory C. Cwalina, NRR
(301) 492-3221

Walter P. Haass, NRR
(301) 492-3219

Attachment: 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
89-74	Clarification of Transportation Requirements Applicable to Return of Spent Radiopharmacy Dosages from Users to Suppliers	11/7/89	All manufacturers and distributors of radiopharmaceuticals for medical use, nuclear pharmacies, and medical licensees.
89-73	Potential Overpressurization of Low Pressure Systems	11/1/89	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
89-72	Failure of Licensed Senior Operators to Classify Emergency Events Properly	10/24/89	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
89-71	Diversion of the Residual Heat Removal Pump Seal Cooling Water Flow During Recirculation Operation Following a Loss-of-Coolant Accident	10/19/89	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
89-70	Possible Indications of Misrepresented Vendor Products	10/11/89	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
89-69	Loss of Thermal Margin Caused by Channel Box Bow	9/29/89	All holders of OLs or CPs for BWRs.
89-68	Evaluation of Instrument Setpoints During Modifications	9/25/89	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
89-67	Loss of Residual Heat Removal Caused by Accumulator Nitrogen Injection	9/13/89	All holders of OLs or CPs for PWRs.
89-66	Qualification Life of Solenoid Valves	9/11/89	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit

TOPICAL REPORTS FOR STORAGE CASKS SUBMITTED TO FUEL CYCLE SAFETY BRANCH

Project M-34, 37, 50

General Nuclear Systems, Inc.
ATTN: Paul Highberger, Vice President
220 Stoneridge Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

Project M-39, 49

Nutech, Inc.
John V. Massey
145 Martinvale Lane
San Jose, CA 95119

Project M-40, 51
52 & 54

Nuclear Assurance Corporation
ATTN: James M. Viebrock
Senior Vice President
Engineering and Transportation
Systems
6251 Crooked Creek Road
Suite 200
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Project M-41

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
ATTN: William J. Johnson, Manager
Nuclear Safety Department
Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230-0355

Project M-42

Transnuclear, Inc.
ATTN: Donald J. Nolan
Chief Engineer
One North Broadway
White Plains, New York 10601

Project M-43

C-E Power Systems
ATTN: A. E. Scherer, Director
Nuclear Licensing
1000 Prospect Hill Road
Windsor, Connecticut 06095

Project M-45

Nuclear Packaging, Inc.
ATTN; Charles J. Temus
1010 South 336th Street
Federal Way, Washington 98003

Project M-46

FW Energy Applications, Inc.
ATTN: H. C. Pickering, Jr.
President & Chief Executive Officer
8 Peach Tree Hill Road
Livingston, New Jersey 07039

Project M-53

Pacific Sierra Nuclear Associates
ATTN: James V. Massey, Ph.D.
General Manager
5619 Scotts Valley Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Docket 72-1

General Electric Company
ATTN: T. E. Ingels
Manager, Morris Operation
7555 East Collins Road
Morris, IL 60450-9740

Docket 72-2

Virginia Electric and Power Company
ATTN: Mr. W. R. Cartwright
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Insbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Docket 72-3 &
72-6

Carolina Power & Light Company
ATTN: L. W. Eury
Executive Vice President
Power Supply
P. O. Box 1551
Raleigh, NC 27602

Docket 72-4

Duke Power Company
ATTN: H. B. Tucker, Vice President
Nuclear Production
P.O. Box 33189
Charlotte, NC 28242

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