

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

May 31, 1991

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 91-33: REACTOR SAFETY INFORMATION FOR STATES
DURING EXERCISES AND EMERGENCIES

Addressees:

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

Purpose:

This information notice is intended to alert addressees to recent enhanced efforts on the part of the Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD) of the NRC to interact with State decisionmakers on operational plant data during the early stages of an accident at a nuclear power plant, including both emergency response exercises and actual events. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate. However, suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

The NRC is prepared to provide an analysis of plant conditions to the States during exercises and emergencies. State receipt and use of this information for decisionmaking is on a voluntary basis.

The NRC, licensees, and State and local governments are all well aware that during the first few hours of an accident at a nuclear power facility, critical decisions may be necessary concerning public protective actions and that plant conditions are the major determining factors in early protective action recommendations. Important roles of the NRC in an emergency are to confirm the utility's protective action recommendations and to support the State and local officials in their decisions regarding protective action implementation. NRC has traditionally focused on protective measures communications (i.e., radiological releases, meteorological conditions) when interfacing with States during exercises and actual emergencies. The NRC has extensive expertise in reactor safety and in protective measures areas. The NRC staff is trained to respond to plant emergencies and has a range of technical tools to assist in understanding the significance of events and to project consequences.

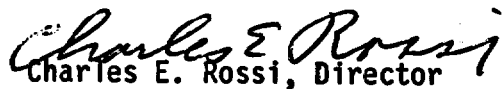
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The NRC intends to increase its efforts to interact with offsite officials to assure they are aware of and confident in the NRC's ability to support them during the early stages of an accident. The NRC will accomplish this through increased NRC Headquarters participation in exercises so that offsite officials can factor the NRC operational and analytical information into their decisionmaking processes. The NRC is planning to increase interactions in additional ways such as emergency response workshops that describe NRC assessment tools and response capabilities, federally sponsored accident assessment courses, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Emergency Education Network (EENET) broadcasts.

It is the intention of the NRC to strengthen the existing relationship between utilities and States in recommending and implementing protective actions. State and local governments can rely on the NRC to provide them with independent reactor safety assessment capability. Nevertheless, the early protective actions in the event of a rapid accident sequence should be considered based on licensee recommendations and must not await or be delayed by NRC assessments. We hope through increased NRC efforts, States will have greater confidence in both the utility's ability and the NRC's ability to assist them in protecting the health and safety of the public.

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


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

Technical Contact: Eric W. Weinstein, AEOD
(301) 492-7836

Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
 NRC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
91-32	Possible Flaws in Certain Piping Systems Fabricated by Associated Piping and Engineering	05/15/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-31	Nonconforming Magnaflux Magnetic Particle (14AM) Prepared Bath	05/09/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-30	Inadequate Calibration of Thermoluminescent Dosimeters Utilized to Monitor Extremity Dose at Uranium Processing and Fabrication Facilities	04/23/91	All fuel cycle licensees and other licensees routinely handling unshielded uranium materials.
86-21, Supp. 2	Recognition of American Society of Mechanical Engineers Accreditation Program for N Stamp Holders	04/16/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors and all recipients of NUREG-0040, "Licensee Contractor and Vendor Inspection Status Report" (White Book).
91-29	Deficiencies Identified During Electrical Distribution System Functional Inspections	04/15/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-28	Cracking in Feedwater System Piping	04/15/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for pressurized water reactors (PWRs).
91-27	Incorrect Rotation of Positive Displacement Pump	04/10/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
89-90, Supp. 1	Pressurizer Safety Valve Lift Setpoint Shift	04/10/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.

OL = Operating License
 CP = Construction Permit

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Document Name: INFO NOTICE - WEINSTEIN, HODGE
*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES.
D/DOEA:NRR *C/OGCB:DOEA:NRR *RPB:ADM *DD/GPA *D/DREP:NRR
CERossi CHBerlinger TechEd SSchwartz FCongel
05/12/91 05/22/91 05/15/91 05/17/91 05/22/91
*OGCB:DOEA:NRR *IRB:DOA:AEOD *IRB:DOA:AEOD *C/IRB:DOA:AEOD *D/DOA:AEOD
CVHodge EDWeinstein TJMcKenna GGZech RLSpessard
05/15/91 05/08/91 05/08/91 05/08/91 05/10/91

*G. Zech of AEOD
concurred in final draft
in a telephonic conversation
on 5/24/91.
C. E. Rossi*

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DOEA:NRR CERossi 05/15/91	^{NPK} C/OGCB:DOEA:NRR EHBerlinger 05/ /91	RPB:ADM TechEd JMing 05/15/91	DD/DOA SSchwartz 05/17/91	D/DREP:NRR FCongel 05/21/91
OGCB:DOEA:NRR CVHodge 05/15/91	*IRB:DOA:AEOD EDWeinstein 05/08/91	*IRB:DOA:AEOD TJMcKenna 05/08/91	*C/IRB:DOA:AEOD GGZech 05/08/91	*D/DOA:AEOD RLSpessard 05/10/91

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IRB:DOA:AEOD
EDWeinstein
05/8/91 pw

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IRB:DOA:AEOD
TJMcKenna
05/8/91 for

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IRB:DOA:AEOD
GGZech
05/8/91

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D:DOA:AEOD
RLSpessard
05/10/91

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NCR/DREP
5/20/91