



POLICY ISSUE
(Information)

February 24, 1981

SECY-81-119

For: The Commissioners

From: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION OF CLASS IE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT -
CLARIFICATION OF STAFF'S HANDLING OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Purpose: To inform the Commission of objections raised by certain equipment vendors regarding the NRC's handling of information concerning the qualification of Class IE electrical equipment, and the staff's solution to these objections.

Discussion: Class IE electrical equipment qualification data presently is available in two forms: (1) a summary, substantially containing only identifying data and test parameters; and (2) a detailed explanation of test procedures and the results thereof. As stated in our August 6, 1980 Information Report, SECY-80-367, the summary reports are not believed to contain validly proprietary information, and thus should not be withheld from public disclosure, while the detailed reports are believed to be proprietary, and therefore, subject to NRC protection. Summary information in and of itself is not sufficient to substantiate qualification of the equipment because the licensee must examine the referenced document from which the data was extracted and certify that the data is fully applicable and valid for qualifying his specific component. This certification process involves the traceability of design, manufacturing processes, and materials of construction to the specific component. Additionally, the NRC staff audits of such qualification require the licensee to produce the complete documentation at his own location or at the location of a NSSS vendor.

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Certain of the equipment vendors, principally Westinghouse, are concerned that the summary information reports will be accepted by the NRC as the sole documentation necessary for equipment qualification, in lieu of the requirement to produce the detailed information, for which the vendors levy a charge to the licensees in order to recoup the vendor's testing costs. The vendors believe that if the summary reports are released to the public, they will be unable to recoup these costs. Because of this belief, Westinghouse is labeling as proprietary its licensees' summary information reports.

We have discussed this situation in detail with Westinghouse. They have agreed to drop proprietary claims on summary information if the NRC affirms its present position that summary data is not acceptable in and of itself to qualify equipment.

Accordingly, NRR is notifying all affected licensees and vendors of our policy with regard to summary information in equipment qualification by enclosing a copy of this paper with a letter to be sent to each licensee by the Division of Licensing.



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