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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

October 19, 1989

ALL LICENSEES OF OPERATING REACTORS AND HOLDERS OF CONSTRUCTION **TO:** PERMITS*

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED ROOF LOADS AND PLANT AREA FLOOD RUNOFF DEPTH AT LICENSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS DUE TO RECENT CHANGE IN PROBABLE MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION CRITERIA DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (GENERIC LETTER 89-22)

This letter is to inform you that the NRC staff has adopted for future plants the latest probable maximum precipitation (PMP) criteria published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS) to establish acceptable design configurations for safety-related nuclear power plant facilities. The staff has been using the PMP concept in plant flood design for well over 15 years. The criteria appear in Regulatory Guides, ANSI Standards, and Standard Review Plans (NUREG-0800) and were based primarily on procedures established in the 1940s and 1950s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Weather Service (NWS).

Since 1977, more recent PMP criteria have been published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service. These criteria are to be used to evaluate the degree of licensee compliance with the General Design Criterion #2 App A to 10 CFR Part 50. The new criteria are contained in NOAA/NWS Hydrometerological Reports (HMR) No. 49 (1977), No. 51 (1978), No. 52 (1982), No. 53 (1980) and No. 55 (1984). One of the more significant changes in the new HMRs is that they now provide PMP estimates for drainage areas as small as 1 square mile and for durations as small as 5 minutes. The previous reports generally only provided PMP estimates for areas of 10 square miles or greater and durations of 6 hours or more. There were empirical methods to subdivide the 6 hour duration to smaller increments, but there was never any methodology to estimate PMP for areas less than 10 square miles. Thus, the 10 square mile PMP values were used for site and roof drainage design. Current 1 square mile short duration PMP estimates are larger than those previously used.

Staff has revised (Revision 3) Sections 2.4.2, "Floods," and 2.4.2, "Probable Maximum Floods (PMF) on Streams and Rivers," of the Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800) to formally incorporate the latest NWS reports into the licensing

1* Five plants, Byron, Braidwood, Vogtle, South Texas, and River Bend, fully meet the new PMP Criteria and the licensees for these five plants may dis-IDAR-5 GENERIC LAR regard this letter.

Generic Letter 89- 22

October 19, 1989

review process. In general, the latest NWS criteria call for higher rainfall intensities over shorter time intervals and smaller areas than have been previously considered. In some cases, such events could result in higher site flooding levels and greater roof ponding loads than have been used in previous design studies.

This information is provided for your review and determination of appropriate action, if any. No submittal is required.

Sincerely,

James G. Partlow Associate Director for Projects Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: List of Most Recently Issued Generic Letters

Technical Contact: S. Chan, ESGB/NRR 492-0830

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED GENERIC LETTERS

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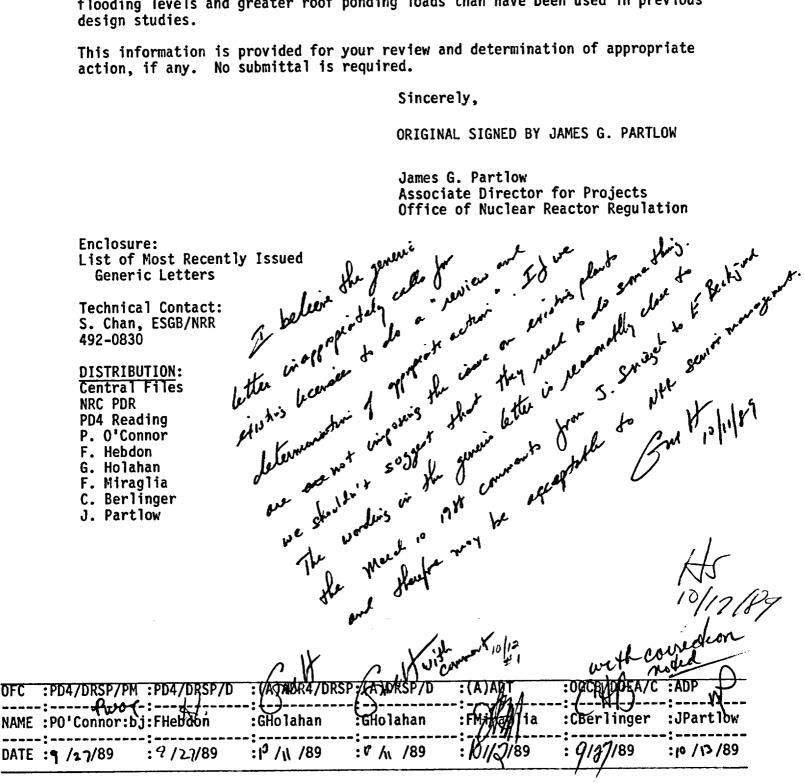
| Generic Letter No. | Subject | Date of Issuance | Issued To |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| 89-22 | POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED ROOF LOADS AND PLANT AREA FLOOD RUNOFF DEPTH AT LICENSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS DUE TO RECENT CHANGE IN PROBABLE MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION CRITERIA DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (GENERIC LETTER 89-22) | 10/19/89 | ALL LICENSEES OF OPERATING REACTORS AND HOLDERS OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (EXCEPT BYRON BRAIDWOOD, VOGTLE, SOUTH TEXAS, AND RIVER BEND) |
| 89-21 | REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF UNRESOLVED SAFETY ISSUE (USI) REQUIREMEN | 10/19/89 ITS | ALL HOLDERS OF OPERATING LICENSES AND CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS |
| 89-20 | PROTECTED AREA LONG-TERM HOUSEKEEPING | 09/26/89 | ALL FUEL CYCLE FACILITY LICENSEES WHO POSSESS, USE, OR PROCESS FORMULA QUANTITIES OF STRATEGIC SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL |
| 89-19 | REQUEST FOR ACTION RELATED TO RESOLUTION OF UNRESOLVED SAFETY ISSUE A-47 "SAFETY IMPLICATION OF CONTROL SYSTEMS IN LWR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS" PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 50.54(f) | 09/20/89 | ALL LICENSEES OF OPERATING REACTORS, APPLICANTS FOR OPERATING LICENSES AND HOLDERS OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR LIGHT WATER REACTOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS |
| 89-18 | RESOLUTION OF UNRESOLVED SAFETY ISSUE A-17, *SYSTEMS INTERACTIONS IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS | 09/06/89 | ALL HOLDERS OF OPERATING LICENSES OR CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS |
| | ACCESSION NUMBER IS 8909070029 | | |
| 89-17 | PLANNED ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE NRC OPERATOR LICENSING WRITTEN EXAMINA- TION PROCESS - GENERIC LETTER 89-17 | 09/06/89 | ALL HOLDERS OF OPERATING LICENSES OR CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR PWRS AND BWRS AND ALL LICENSED OPERATORS |
| 89-16 | INSTALLATION OF A HARDENED WETWELL VENT (GENERIC LETTER 89-16) | 09/01/89 | ALL GE PLANTS |

Generic Letter 89-22

October 19, 1989

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This information is provided for your review and determination of appropriate action, if any. No submittal is required.



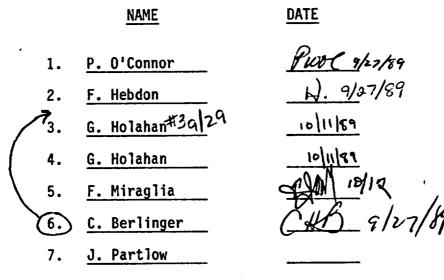
OFFICIAL RECORD COPY Document Name: GENERIC LETTER/PD4 DOCUMENT NAME: GENERIC LETTER/PD4

ORIGINATOR NAME *: P. O'Connor x23026

SECRETARY NAME: Beverly/Celeste x21340

SUBJECT:

GENERIC LETTER 89-XX RE: DESIGN FOR PROBALBE MAXIMUM PRESCRIPTION



7. Secretary - Dispatch

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THIS SHEET FROM PACKAGE

* CAN THIS DOCUMENT BE DELETED FROM SYSTEM? YES ____ NO ____ NO ____

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