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State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

2005 JUN 14 AM 9:12

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner

Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor

Division of Environmental Safety and Health
Radiation Protection and Release Prevention Element
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RECEIVED

June 6, 2005

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Mail Stop: T6-D59)
Washington, DC 20555-0001

4/12/05

70FR19125

(3)

Dear Mr. Lamb:

This letter provides you with comments from the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Nuclear Engineering (NJDEP-BNE), on *Federal Register* notice ML050810504, "Proposed Generic Communication Grid Reliability and the Impact on Plant Risk and the Operability of Offsite Power," dated April 6, 2005.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to issue a generic letter (GL) to request that nuclear power licensees submit information to the NRC concerning the status of their compliance with GDC 17, 10CFR50.63, 10CFR50.65, and plant technical specifications governing electric power in accordance with 10CFR50.54(f). The request is to obtain information in four areas: (1) use of nuclear power plant/transmission system operator protocols and real time contingency analysis programs to monitor grid conditions to determine operability of offsite power systems under plant technical specifications, (2) use of nuclear power plant/transmission system operator protocols and real time contingency analysis programs to monitor grid conditions for consideration in maintenance risk assessments, (3) offsite power restoration procedures in accordance with Section 2 of Regulatory Guide 1.155, "Station Blackout," and (4) losses of offsite power caused by grid failures at a frequency of greater than or equal to 20 years in accordance with Regulatory Guide 1.155.

NJDEP's comment on this proposed GL is as follows. NJDEP fully supports the NRC's proposed information request. The issue of maintaining electric grid reliability must remain one of paramount importance in light of the consequences of the recent, August 14, 2003, blackout event. In southern New Jersey near the Oyster Creek nuclear power facility, especially during the summer season, maintaining a reliable electric supply through the limited power transmission lines in the area is a fine balance. NJDEP therefore recommends to the NRC that this proposed GL be implemented on a schedule

SFSR Review Complete

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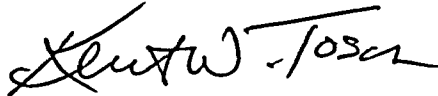
E-RDS = ADM-03

Call = A. Markley (AWM)
Jose Carlo (JAC4)
J.L. Lamb (JLL1)

such that it can be assured that all nuclear power facilities in New Jersey will be in full compliance with the proposed GL prior to the start of the 2006 summer season.

If you need additional information, please contact Mr. Kent Tosch, Manager of the Bureau of Nuclear Engineering, at (609) 984-7701.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kent W. Tosch in cursive script.

for JL

Jill Lipoti, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Radiation Protection Program and Release
Prevention
