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To: Anne Boland; Cynthia Pederson; Gary Shear; Mark Satorius; Steven West
Date: Thu, Sep 27, 2007 4:30 PM
Subject: **Fwd: Press Release**-NRC Publishes Regulatory Issue Summary on Feedwater Flow Meter Issues

Do you have this RIS and are we making sure that our licensees with these devices are complying appropriately with this RIS? Let me know who in RIII is using these devices to increase their power and if they continue, if that's ok and why.

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From: James Caldwell

Created By: JLC1@nrc.gov

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ch_po.CH_DO
ATB (Anne Boland)
CDP1 (Cynthia Pederson)
GLS (Gary Shear)
KSW (Steven West)
MAS (Mark Satorius)

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NRC NEWS

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Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
E-mail: opa@nrc.gov
Site: http://www.nrc.gov

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NRC PUBLISHES REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY ON FEEDWATER FLOW METER ISSUES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is informing nuclear power plant operators about the agency's review of devices, called ultrasonic flow meters (UFM), currently in use at several U.S. reactors.

Plant operators measure how much water flows into a reactor or steam generators as part of the information they need to determine the reactor's power output. UFMs have been used to increase the accuracy of this information. Currently, there are two basic NRC-approved UFM designs available to monitor this, and in some cases plants rely on the meters' improved accuracy to request NRC approval for operating at slightly higher power levels.

The NRC's Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) informs plant operators of some instances where UFM use led to plants operating slightly above (approximately 2.5 percent) their NRC licensed power level. The plants operated safely during these instances and did not affect public health. The agency re-evaluated the justification for using UFMs and concluded one manufacturer, Westinghouse, failed to demonstrate adequately its "Crossflow" meter can consistently achieve its stated levels of accuracy.

The RIS informs plant operators they cannot use the agency's previous evaluation of the Crossflow meter to justify future requests to operate at higher power levels. The RIS also advises operators currently relying on the Crossflow meter for increased power levels to evaluate this new information and ensure their plants continue to meet NRC regulations for safe operation.

The RIS is available on the agency's Web site, by entering accession number ML063450261 at this address: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html . Questions should be directed to Thomas Alexion (phone 301-415-1326 or twa@nrc.gov).

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