



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II
101 MARIETTA ST., N.W., SUITE 2100
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

AIR 22 1981

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Gentlemen:

The enclosed information notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE circular or bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,

James P. O'Reilly
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 81-15
2. List of Recently Issued
IE Information Notices

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April 22, 1981

Addresses

Ir Reference To

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Alabama Power Company
Attn: R. P. McDonald
Vice President, Nuclear Generation
Post Office Box 2641
Birmingham, AL 35291 | 50-348 Farley Unit 1
50-364 Farley Unit 2 |
| 2. Carolina Power and Light Company
Attn: J. A. Jones
Senior Executive Vice President
and Chief Operating Officer
411 Fayetteville Street
Raleigh, NC 27602 | 50-325 Brunswick Unit 1
50-324 Brunswick Unit 2
50-400 Harris Unit 1
50-401 Harris Unit 2
50-402 Harris Unit 3
50-403 Harris Unit 4
50-251 Robinson Unit 2 |
| 3. Duke Power Company
Attn: L. C. Daff, Vice President
Design Engineering
P. O. Box 33189
Charlotte, NC 28242 | 50-491 Cherokee Unit 1
50-492 Cherokee Unit 2
50-493 Cherokee Unit 3
50-488 Perkins Unit 1
50-489 Perkins Unit 2
50-490 Perkins Unit 3 |
| 4. Duke Power Company
Attn: W. O. Parker, Jr.
Vice President, Steam Production
P. O. Box 2178
Charlotte, NC 28242 | 50-369 McGuire Unit 1
50-370 McGuire Unit 2
50-269 Oconee Unit 1
50-270 Oconee Unit 2
50-287 Oconee Unit 3
50-413 Catawba Unit 1
50-414 Catawba Unit 2 |
| 5. Florida Power and Light Company
Attn: R. E. Uhrig, Vice President
Advanced Systems and Technology
P. O. Box 529100
Miami, FL 33152 | 50-335 St. Lucie Unit 1
50-389 St. Lucie Unit 2
50-250 Turkey Point Unit 3
50-251 Turkey Point Unit 4 |
| 6. Florida Power Corporation
Attn: J. A. Hancock, Assistant
Vice President Nuclear Operations
P. O. Box 14042, Mail Stop C-4
St. Petersburg, FL 33733 | 50-302 Crystal River Unit 3 |

Addresses

In Reference To

7. Georgia Power Company
Attn: J. H. Miller, Jr.
Executive Vice President
270 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
8. Mississippi Power and Light Company
Attn: N. L. Stampiey
Vice President of Production
P. O. Box 1640
Jackson, MS 39205
9. Offshore Power Systems
Attn: A. R. Collier, President
P. O. Box 8000
Jacksonville, FL 32211
10. South Carolina Electric and Gas Company
Attn: T. C. Nichols, Jr., Vice President
Power Production and System
Operations
P. O. Box 764
Columbia, SC 29218
11. Tennessee Valley Authority
Attn: H. G. Parris
Manager of Power
500A Chestnut Street Tower II
Chattanooga, TN 37401
12. Virginia Electric and Power Company
Attn: J. H. Ferguson
Executive Vice President-Power
P. O. Box 26666
Richmond, VA 23261

- 50-321 Hatch Unit 1
- 50-366 Hatch Unit 2
- 50-424 Vogtle Unit 1
- 50-425 Vogtle Unit 2

- 50-416 Grand Gulf Unit 1
- 50-417 Grand Gulf Unit 2

50-437 FNP I-8

50-395 Summer Unit 1

- 50-438 Bellefonte Unit 1
- 50-439 Bellefonte Unit 2
- 50-259 Browns Ferry Unit 1
- 50-260 Browns Ferry Unit 2
- 50-296 Browns Ferry Unit 3
- 50-518 Hartsville Unit 1
- 50-519 Hartsville Unit 2
- 50-520 Hartsville Unit 3
- 50-521 Hartsville Unit 4
- 50-553 Phipps Bend Unit 1
- 50-554 Phipps Bend Unit 2
- 50-327 Sequoyah Unit 1
- 50-328 Sequoyah Unit 2
- 50-390 Watts Bar Unit 1
- 50-391 Watts Bar Unit 2
- 50-566 Yellow Creek Unit 1
- 50-567 Yellow Creek Unit 2

- 50-338 North Anna Unit 1
- 50-339 North Anna Unit 2
- 50-404 North Anna Unit 3
- 50-280 Surry Unit 1
- 50-281 Surry Unit 2



Addresses

In Reference To

13. Institute of Nuclear Power Operation
Attn: R. W. Pack
Lakeside Compl.
1820 Waterplace
Atlanta, GA 30339
14. Southern Company Services, Inc.
ATTN: O. Batum, Manager
Nuclear Safety & Licensing
Department
P. O. Box 2625
Birmingham, AL 35202
15. Department of Energy
Clinch River Breeder Reactor
Plant Project Office
ATTN: Chief, Quality Improvement
P. O. Box U
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
16. EDS, Nuclear, Inc.
ATTN: E. H. Verdery
330 Technology Park/Atlanta
Norcross, GA 30092

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

April 22, 1981

IE Information Notice No. 81-15: DEGRADATION OF AUTOMATIC ECCS ACTUATION
CAPABILITY BY ISOLATION OF INSTRUMENT LINES

Description of Circumstances:

On March 23, 1981 at Georgia Power Company's Hatch Unit 2, an instrument technician, while investigating a drywell low-pressure alarm, found that seven of eight isolation valves were closed. The eighth valve was found slightly open and was considered as being functionally closed. These safety-related valves (also identified as panel or root valves) isolated twelve instruments that automatically actuate emergency core cooling system (ECCS), reactor protection system, and containment isolation systems on high drywell pressure. The capability for manual actuation of the affected systems was continuously available from the control room. However, had a loss-of-coolant accident occurred, all systems would have been actuated by a redundant signal of low reactor water level, except for the automatic depressurization system. Those valves discovered to be closed were opened, valve alignment checks were performed, and no other discrepancies were found. These isolation valves were incorrectly identified as instrument drain valves and were closed on March 9, 1981 during completion of a valve lineup procedure. The drain valves that were being closed were on other safety-related lines that were of the same size and appearance as the high drywell pressure instrument lines that were isolated.

Another event involving closure of some similar isolation valves was recently reported by the Peach Bottom Unit 2 licensee on April 1, 1981. The closed valves were found by a licensee employee who was troubleshooting an intermittent drywell pressure switch trouble alarm. Only one isolation valve was found fully closed, whereas two other valves were found one-eighth turn open (but considered closed for review of protective system response). Redundant channels were verified to be operable; thus, no automatic protective or emergency cooling system actuation would have been lost from the high drywell pressure signal.

This information is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter that is still under review by the NRC staff. In case the continuing NRC review finds that specific licensee actions would be appropriate, an IE bulletin or circular may be issued. In the interim, we expect that licensees will review this information for applicability to their operating procedures, paying particular attention to valve alignment checklists and requirements for independent verification of valve alignments including instrument valves.

No written response to this information notice is required. If you need additional information with regard to this matter, contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Attachment:
Recently issued IE Information Notices

RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
81-14	Potential Overstress of Shafts on Fisher Series 9200 Butterfly Valves with Expandable T Rings	4/17/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL
81-13	Jammed Source Rack in a Gamma Irradiator	4/14/81	Specified Irradiator licensees
81-12	Guidance on Order Issued January 9, 1981 regarding Automatic Control Rod Insertion on Low Control Air Pressure	3/31/81	All BWR facilities with an OL or CP
81-11	Alternate Rod Insertion for BWR Scram Represents a Potential Path for Loss of Primary Coolant	3/30/81	All BWR facilities with an OL or CP
81-10	Inadvertant Containment Spray Due to Personnel Error	3/25/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
81-09	Degradation of Residual Heat Removal (RHR) System	3/26/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
81-08	Repetitive Failures of Limitorque Operator SNB-4 Motor-to-Shaft Key	3/20/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
81-07	Potential Problem with Water-Soluble Purge Dam Materials Used During Inert Gas Welding	3/16/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
81-06	Failure of ITE Model K-600 Circuit Breaker	3/11/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP

OL = Operating Licenses
CP = Construction Permits