

From: MAAS Loren (AREVA) [Loren.Maas@areva.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 5:53 PM
To: Diaz, Marilyn
Subject: Fire Alarm System Emergency Backup Batteries

Marilyn,

Via your e-mail of January 19th and your phone call the day before, you inquired about the adequacy of the backup batteries relied upon to power the fire alarm system during a loss of electrical power at locations not served with emergency power from our fixed- location emergency power generators. Specifically you sought to confirm that the batteries would power the alarm for a length of time consistent with the recommendation in NFPA 72.

I have discussed your question with our site EP coordinator as well as with our site engineer who oversees our fire alarm systems. AREVA is involved in a multi-year project to upgrade its fire alarm system site-wide. With a few exceptions, the major site SNM-processing buildings are on the new system; work has begun on upgrading the many onsite support facilities to the new system. Relative to the backup batteries in fire alarm systems in SNM-handling facilities not on emergency backup power, both the upgraded (new) fire alarm panels and the non-upgraded fire alarm panels are subject to annual visual inspections of the panels and associated batteries as well as a five year battery replacement schedule. The visual inspections and battery replacements are scheduled and documented under the formal plant PM system. Furthermore, any work on the local alarm panels with the potential to have impacted the existing batteries (e.g. adding load) calls for a recommissioning of the panel, including verification that the batteries will power the alarm for at least 5 minutes.

Five minute alarm capacity tests are conducted as part of the initial installation/commissioning process for the upgraded local alarm panels. In addition, the alarm panels associated with the upgraded system are continuously electronically monitored, including programmed checks of the backup battery systems. System problems detected via the electronic monitoring result in a trouble warning and precipitate prompt attention by the Maintenance organization.

Please convey this information to the individual reviewing our license amendment application. If either of you has questions, please feel to contact me at 509-375-8537.

Loren Maas, Manager
Licensing and Compliance
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