



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

March 29, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Edward S. Christenbury, Chief Hearing Counsel, OELD
FROM: D. B. Vassallo, Assistant Director for Light Water Reactors, Division of Project Management
SUBJECT: BOARD NOTIFICATION - NONSAFETY-GRADE EQUIPMENT TO MITIGATE TRANSIENTS (BN-79-12)

The enclosed staff memorandum recommends that Boards be notified of a staff assessment to be made regarding the current practice of relying on nonsafety grade equipment to mitigate the severity of anticipated operational occurrences.

As stated, there is no immediate safety significance to this issue although the assessment could lead to additional requirements on such equipment in the future. The timing of the Board Notification recommendation is based on the need for the staff to obtain information regarding this matter from external sources.

Although the memorandum highlights the applicability to BWR's I recommend that both BWR and PWR Boards in the appropriate time frame be made aware of this matter.

The staff memorandum should provide the basic Board Notification. I would suggest a covering paragraph along the following lines -

"This notification (described in enclosed staff memorandum) is for the purpose of making the Boards aware of a staff assessment which will be made regarding the current practice of placing reliance on nonsafety grade equipment for the mitigation of the severity of anticipated operational occurrences. It is of no immediate safety significance but could lead to a change in staff practice in the future."

Our list of Boards currently in the notification time frame is as follows:

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Edward S. Christenbury

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Black Fox
Erie
Greene County
Jamesport
Pebble Springs
Perkins
Pilgrim 2

Shearon Harris
Skagit
FNP
Diablo Canyon
McGuire
North Anna 1
TMI-2



D. B. Vassallo, Assistant Director
for Light Water Reactors
Division of Project Management

Enclosure:
As stated

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