

CABLE FIRE AT BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES:

Preliminary information from Tennessee Valley Authority regarding a fire which occurred on March 22, 1975, at their Browns Ferry site near Athens, Alabama, indicates that the fire was started as a result of construction activities. The fire resulted in the shutdown of two operating nuclear plants and made several safety systems inoperative, including systems normally used for decay heat removal during shutdown. The workmen were engaged in construction activities on a third unit not yet licensed for operation by NRC.

Initial information indicates that during the installation and testing of cable through-wall penetrations an open flame ignited a flammable material used in the penetration seals.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY LICENSEES:

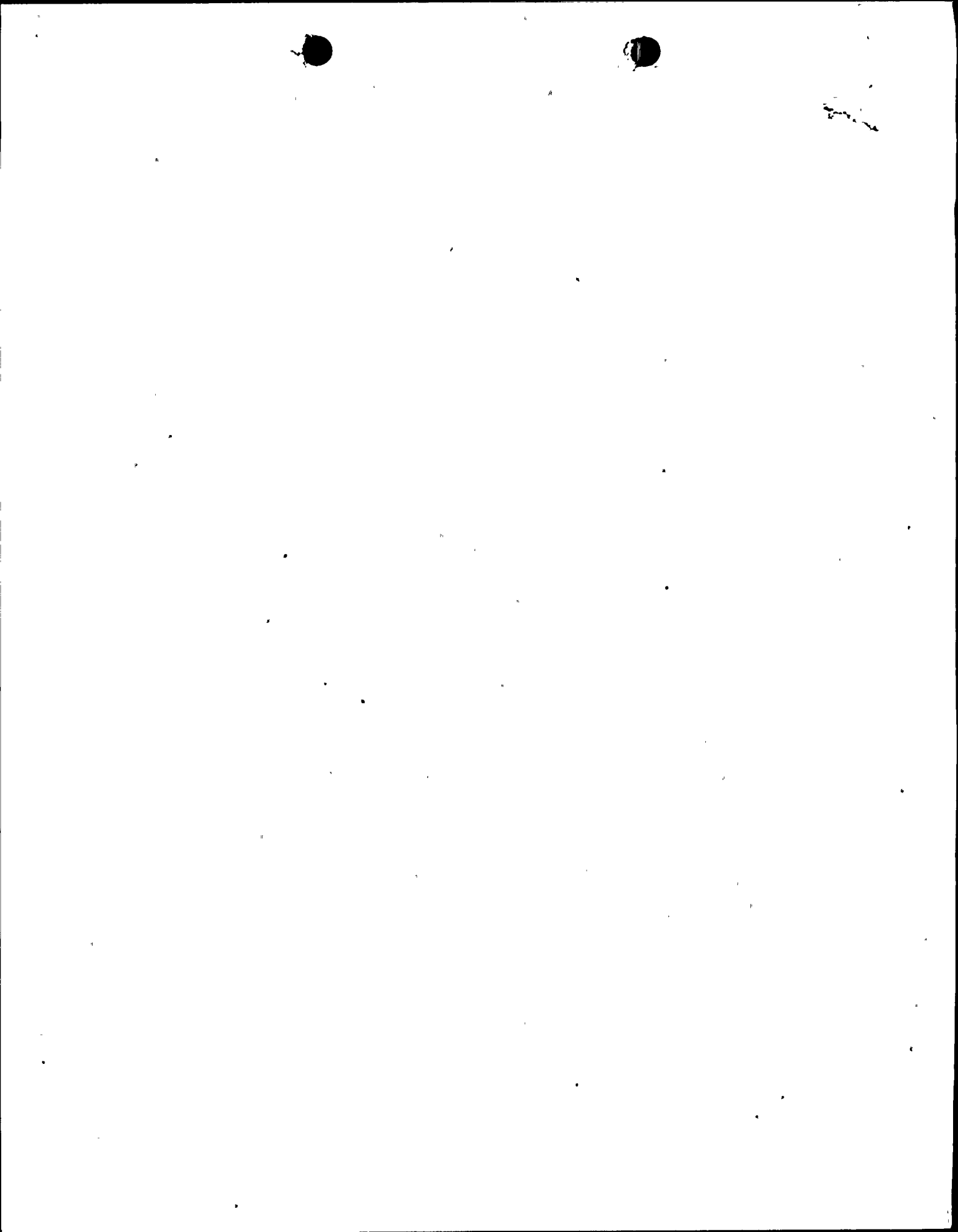
The following actions are requested of selected Licensees with operating power reactor facilities and major construction activities at a common site:

1. Review your overall procedures and system for controlling construction activities that interface with reactor operating activities, with particular attention to the installation and testing of seals for electrical cables between compartments of the reactor building, e.g., control room to cable spreading room.
2. Review the design of floor and wall penetration seals, with particular attention to the flammability of materials.
3. Evaluate your procedures for the control of ignition sources which may be used for leak testing or other purposes in areas containing flammable materials.
4. Report to this office, in writing within 20 days of the date of this Bulletin, the results of your reviews or evaluations regarding items 1 through 3 above.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY LICENSEES MAY BE REVISED:

The actions requested of Licensees above may be revised as additional details of the Browns Ferry occurrence are available and evaluated by the NRC.

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

March 14, 1975

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Attention: R. R. Schneider
Vice President, Electric Operations
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13202

Docket No. 50-220

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Bulletin No. 75-03 which requires action by you with regard to your power reactor facility(ies) with operating license or construction permit.

Should you have questions regarding this Bulletin or the action required of you, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Callan
Jr James P. O'Reilly
Director

Enclosure:
IE Bulletin No. 75-03

Approved by GAO, B-180225 (R0072), clearance expires 7-31-77. Approval was given under a blanket clearance specifically for identified generic problems.

cc: T. E. Lempges, General Superintendent, Nuclear Generation
T. J. Perkins, Plant Superintendent
C. L. Stuart, Operations Supervisor
E. B. Thomas, Jr., Esquire
A. Z. Roisman, Counsel for Citizens Committee for
Protection of the Environment

bcc:
IE Files
DR Central Files
PDR
Local PDR
REG:I Reading Room
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JK -

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