

Docket File



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

September 11, 1992

Docket No. 50-410

See Rpt.

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13212

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY SPECIAL STUDY REPORT ON HUMAN PERFORMANCE IN OPERATING EVENTS

A preliminary special report by the NRC Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD), entitled "Human Performance in Operating Events," is enclosed. The study describes potentially generic observations and conclusions based on onsite evaluation of 17 operating events. Due to the length of the draft report, a copy of this letter and the enclosed preliminary report will be made available in the Local Public Document Room, located in the Penfield Library of the State University of New York, Oswego, New York.

To briefly review for your benefit, each study was conducted by a multidisciplined team, led by an AEOD staff member, with additional NRC headquarters, regional, and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory personnel. The studies focused on those factors that helped or hindered operator performance. The team usually spent 1 to 3 days on site interviewing plant personnel and gathering records. Individual reports of each site study were prepared and distributed within the NRC, to the site involved in the study, and to certain industry groups and a copy was placed in the Public Document Room. This special study describes generic observations and conclusions drawn from 17 such studies.

We believe these events represent an estimated one-fourth to one-third of the events which significantly challenged operating crews during this 2 1/2-year period. Six studies were performed in 1990, seven in 1991, and four in 1992. Ten events occurred at pressurized water reactor plants (PWRs) and seven events occurred at boiling water reactor plants (BWRs). Eleven events occurred at power and 6 occurred in standby or shutdown mode at 16 plant sites. Four studies were performed as part of an augmented inspection team effort, while 13 were performed solely under AEOD auspices.

In accordance with our "peer review" process, prior to the finalization and distribution of our special study report, we are providing you, various industry groups, experts in the field of human factors and plant management where these events occurred with a copy of the preliminary report for review and comment. We request that you focus your review primarily on the accuracy and completeness of the observations and analyses contained in the report.

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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

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September 11, 1992

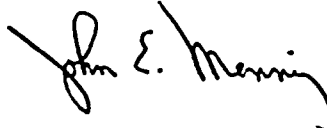
The conclusions are provided for your information in order that you may understand the significance we place on these events and, therefore, obtain a more complete picture of the total report. Changes to the report will be made if the underlying information is in error, or new additional information is provided. We ask that comments be provided in writing directly to the NRC, to the attention of Mr. Thomas Novak, Director, Division of Safety Programs, Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data.

Since we wish to finalize and issue the report shortly, we ask that any comments be received by us within 3 weeks from receipt of this preliminary report. Should you require additional time beyond that point, please let us know; otherwise, it will be assumed that you have no comments.

This letter contains no information collection requirements subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

If you or your staff have any questions regarding this study, please feel free to contact Mr. Thomas Novak on (301) 492-4484 or Mr. Eugene Trager on (301) 492-4496.

Sincerely,



John E. Menning, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Draft, Special Study, Human
Performance in Operating
Events, dated August 28, 1992

cc w/o enclosure:
See next page



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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Unit No. 2

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