



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

SEP 26 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Ahearne.

FROM: Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
(Signed) William J. Dircks

THRU: William J. Dircks, Executive Director
for Operations

SUBJECT: STATION BLACKOUT

This memorandum is in response to your request dated August 20, 1980, concerning the current status of Task Action Plan A-44 in light of ALAB-603. In ALAB-603, the Appeal Board made specific findings regarding St. Lucie Unit 2, and recommended that the Commission take expeditious action to ensure that other plants and operators are equipped to accommodate a station blackout event. This would include items such as a thorough analysis of the plant behavior during the blackout period, development of written procedures, and operator training for safe operation of the facility and restoration of AC power.

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is currently evaluating the necessary actions for implementing the Appeal Board recommendation. This effort will require contribution from several divisions, and it is expected that several weeks will be required to develop a position for operating reactors and OL's under review. We will report the results of this evaluation to the Commission in approximately one month. With regard to St. Lucie Unit 1, as a result of ALAB-603, we are requiring that the licensee implement actions similar to those required on St. Lucie Unit 2.

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Chairman Ahearne

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The station blackout issue is also being considered under Task Action Plan A-44 which was approved in July 1980 with a scheduled completion date of October 1982 (copy attached). Section 3 of TAP A-44 remains valid and provides the basis for continued plant operation and licensing pending completion of the action plan. The purpose of TAP A-44 is to evaluate the adequacy of current licensing design requirements to assure that nuclear power plants do not pose an unacceptable risk of a station blackout accident. The first effort scheduled for completion in the program involves the reassessment and documentation of a preliminary survey conducted in October 1979. The intent of this survey was to identify any operating plants having an exceptionally high probability of station blackout accidents. The preliminary staff effort found that there were no currently operating plants of unusually high susceptibility to a severe core damage accident resulting from a station blackout. To take better account of analytical uncertainties, it was decided to refine the survey. The updated assessment is scheduled for completion in the last quarter of 1980.

The longer term portions of the task action plan involve extensive use of reliability and risk assessment studies; much of this work will be performed by contractor personnel. The task action plan includes a detailed analysis of AC power supply reliability, an evaluation of potential accident sequence probabilities and consequences, and plant response analyses. A contract was recently placed with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) for technical assistance in the AC power reliability and accident sequence analysis tasks. Also, preliminary plant response analyses for several station blackout accident scenarios are underway by the Division of Water Reactor Safety Research.

In summary, the board recommendation for expeditious action is being considered by the current NRR evaluation of actions needed for operating reactors. The results will be reported to the Commission next month. We believe that the longer range generic aspects of the ALAB-603 recommendations are addressed appropriately in Task Action Plan A-44. The tasks under TAP A-44 are continuing as scheduled at this time.

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Task Action Plan A-44

cc: Commissioner Hendrie
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Bradford
GC
PE
SECY



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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

2. It is essential to ensure that all data is entered correctly and that the system is regularly updated.

3. The second part of the document outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data.

4. These methods include surveys, interviews, and focus groups, each with its own strengths and weaknesses.

5. The final part of the document provides a summary of the findings and offers recommendations for future research.

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