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VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

November 29, 1979

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Serial No. 655A
PO/RMT:baw
Docket Nos: 50-280
50-281
License Nos: DPR-32
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Subject: IE Bulletin 79-18

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

This is in response to IE Bulletin 79-18, "Audibility Problems Encountered on Evacuation of Personnel From High-Noise Areas". Our response for Surry Power Station Unit Nos. 1 and 2 is attached.

Very truly yours,

C. M. Stallings

C. M. Stallings
Vice President-Power Supply
and Production Operations

Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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IE BULLETIN 79-18
AUDIBILITY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED ON EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL FROM HIGH-NOISE AREAS

1. Determine whether current alarm systems and evacuation announcement systems are clearly audible or visible throughout all plant areas with emphasis on high-noise areas. Determination in high noise areas must be made with the maximum anticipated noise level.

RESPONSE

A review has been performed to determine whether current alarm systems and evacuation announcement systems are clearly audible or visible throughout all plant areas with emphasis on high-noise areas.

2. Determine what corrective action is necessary to assure that areas identified as inaudible areas in (1) above, will receive adequate audible/visual evacuation signals. In areas where adequate audible/visual evacuation signals cannot be assured by hardware changes, determine what additional administrative measures are necessary to assure personnel evacuation.

RESPONSE

There appears to be a number of areas in the plant that will require corrective action to insure that those areas receive adequate audible/ visual evacuation signals. In an audibility verification program, conducted following the startup of Unit 1, it was determined that in 50% of the sound level test locations, an evacuation announcement made over the PA system would not be heard by personnel working in that area. However, an engineering evaluation determined that if the PA speakers currently installed were operating properly, the failure rate of the test points could be reduced to 39%. It has been determined that the addition of PA speakers in the deficient areas (with the exception of the Emergency Diesel Generator Rooms) will provide the needed audibility improvement. Due to the high-noise level encountered during the operation of the diesels, a visual evacuation system will be installed in the Emergency Diesel Generator Rooms.

The CO_2 Fire Protection Systems were successfully tested prior to the performance of the audibility verification program, with no alarm system problems encountered. Since a full release of CO_2 occurs when the systems are tested, it is felt that, from a safety point, the CO_2 systems should not be actuated until the next scheduled performance test. The performance test will be conducted between the present time and March 1980.

3. Submit within 45 days of the date of issuance of this Bulletin, a written report of the findings on item (1) and delineate completed or proposed corrective actions per item (2). For operating facilities in a refueling or extended outage, the written report must be submitted within 30 days after plant startup following the outage.

RESPONSE

As specified, an audibility verification program will be conducted within 30 days after the Unit 2 startup following the outage.

4. For accessible areas, all corrective actions determined per item (2) must be completed within 120 days of the date of issuance of this Bulletin. For inaccessible areas, the written report must include a time schedule for completion of corrective actions in this area.

RESPONSE

Corrective actions for the evacuation announcement system in accessible areas in Unit 1 will be completed within 120 days of the Unit 1 startup. Corrective action for inaccessible areas will be accomplished during the next scheduled outage of the unit.