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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
101 MARIETTA ST., N.W., SUITE 3100  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

JUN 10 1980

In Reply Refer To:

R11:JPO

~~50-338, 50-339~~

~~50-404, 50-405~~

~~50-280, 50-281~~

ALL

Virginia Electric and Power Company  
Attn: J. H. Ferguson  
Executive Vice President-Power  
P. O. Box 26666  
Richmond, VA 23261

Gentlemen:

This Information Notice is being forwarded to you for information.

No written response to this Information Notice is required. If you have any questions related to the subject, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

James P. O'Reilly  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice  
No. 80-26
2. List of Recently Issued  
IE Information Notices

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Virginia Electric Power Company

- 2 -

cc w/encl:

W. R. Cartwright, Station Manager  
P. O. Box 402  
Mineral, Virginia 23261

P. G. Perry  
Senior Resident Engineer  
Post Office Box 38  
Mineral, Virginia 23117

J. L. Wilson, Manager  
Post Office Box 315  
Surry, Virginia 23883

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

SSINS No.: 6835  
Accession No.:  
8005050064

June 10, 1980

IE Information Notice No. 80-26

EVALUATION OF CONTRACTOR QA PROGRAMS

Description of Circumstances:

Appendix B to 10 CFR 50 requires that each applicant and licensee establish and execute a Quality Assurance Program, and that each licensee "shall require contractors or subcontractors to provide a quality assurance program". Further Appendix B requires each applicant and licensee to regularly review the status and adequacy of subcontractor programs.

The NRC is becoming increasingly concerned by continuing evidence that many holders of construction permits and operating licenses are not properly implementing these facets of their quality assurance programs. Examples of this lack of effectiveness of contractor QA program implementation, and inadequacy of licensee overview of contractor QA program implementation are appearing in every facet of project activity. Instances have been observed where architect-engineers have released documents for procurement with inappropriate material specifications. Nuclear steam system suppliers have overlooked erroneous assumptions in analysis of instrument system response to design basis transients. Other cases have been observed where both AE's and NSSS have not followed through on commitments to review vendor detailed designs. Vendors' quality assurance programs have been found to contain errors of both omission and commission.

A containment tendon installation contract was awarded to a specialty contractor. During a licensee audit some three months after work started it appeared that a contractor inspector was falsifying records by initialing inspection points not actually observed. A subsequent investigation by the licensee revealed that the contractor had required that QC inspections be performed only on a random basis even though all records had QC signatures. The signatures could mean that the activity was inspected or that record signoffs by others were reviewed; or that the data were recorded by the QC inspector. It is apparent that the licensee had not appropriately reviewed the contractor's inspection program prior to the start of work.

In another instance, after completion and acceptance of a major structural steel installation, the licensee found that significant rework would be required to correct construction quality problems. NRC inspection at the contractor's fabrication facility disclosed that in addition to work for that licensee, the contractor had contracts for "high density" fuel storage racks from several operating licensees. None of the NRC licensees had inspected the contractor's shop or examined his quality assurance programs.

Response to Information Notice No. 80-26 is not required. The NRC expects appropriate action from all licensees and organizations engaged in nuclear activities and actions will be examined in the ongoing NRC inspection program.

IE Information Notice No. 80-26  
June 10, 1980

Enclosure

RECENTLY ISSUED  
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued To
80-26	Evaluation of Contractor QA Programs	6/10/80	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP, near-term CPs and 50 Fuel Facility Licensees
80-25	Transportation of Pyrophoric Uranium	5/30/80	Material Licensee in Priority/Categories II-A, II-D, III-I and IV-DI; Agreement State Licensees in equivalent categories
80-24	Low Level Radioactive Waste Burial Criteria	5/30/80	All NRC and Agreement State Licensees
80-23	Loss of Suction to to Emergency	5/29/80	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
80-22	Breakdown In Contamination Control Programs	5/28/80	All power reactor OLs and near term CPs
80-21	Anchorage and Support of Safety-Related Electrical Equipment	5/16/80	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
80-20	Loss of Decay Heat Removal Capability at Davis-Besse Unit 1 While in a Refueling Mode	5/8/80	All light water reactor facilities holding power reactor OLs or CPs
80-19	NIOSH Recall of Recirculating-Mode (Closed-Circuit) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (Rebreathers)	5/6/80	All holders of a power reactor OL, Research Reactor License, Fuel Cycle Facility License and Priority I Material License
80-18	Possible Weapons Smuggling Pouch	5/5/80	All power reactor facilities with an OL, fuel fabrication and processing facilities and Materials Priority I licensees (processors and distributors)