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

Docket No. 50-170

SEP 7 1979

Defense Nuclear Agency
Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute
ATTN: Colonel Darrell W. McIndoe, USAF
Director
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Gentlemen:

With this Information Notice the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is extending an existing mechanism previously used for informing facility licensees of significant operating events to include informing operator licensees of significant events which could impact on conditions of their NRC licenses. This Information Notice is being reissued to correct a word omission and a punctuation error that, when taken together, completely changed the intent of a statement. The changed statement is underlined in the text of the Information Notice.

It is requested that the facility licensee provide copies of this Information Notice to all NRC licensed individuals at the facility. No specific response is requested at this time. If you have questions regarding this matter please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,


for Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 79-20, Revision 1
2. List of IE Information Notices Issued in
the Last Six Months

cc w/encls:

Captain R. Schaffer, USAF, Chief, Physicist, AFFRI Reactor

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ENCLOSURE 1

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

IE Information Notice No. 79-20
Revision 1
Date: September 7, 1979
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NRC ENFORCEMENT POLICY - NRC LICENSED INDIVIDUALS

Background:

In the past, NRC licensed individuals have been cited by the NRC for failure to comply with the conditions of their licenses. These items of noncompliance can generally be characterized as serious or repeated failures to follow reactor operating procedures. Two recent events involving the radiation overexposure of NRC licensed individuals through their violation of utility procedures, facility Technical Specifications and the Code of Federal Regulations have raised questions about the exercise of their responsibilities.

The purpose of this Information Notice is two-fold:

- (1) To remind the NRC licensed individuals of their responsibilities, not only in the proper operation of the facility controls, but in compliance with the facility administrative procedures, and
- (2) To summarize the enforcement sanctions available to the NRC for use against licensed individuals.

Description of Circumstances:

1. Responsibilities

Facility licensees are charged with the responsibility to design, construct and operate their plants in accordance with NRC requirements to assure that public health and safety are protected. The role of NRC licensed individuals is no less important in the overall Regulatory scheme. The NRC recognizes that timely actions by NRC licensed individuals are an important part of safety. Reliance on these actions is a part of the defense-in-depth concept. Specifically, the NRC requires that:

- (1) Only licensed operators are permitted to manipulate the controls that directly affect reactivity (10 CFR 50.54 (i))
- (2) Licensed operators are required to perform certain duties a certain number of times during the operation of

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ANO 7908220108

No. of pages: 5