

*M. Aycock*



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

JUL 03 1979

Mr. Jack Jackson  
LWR Safety R&D Division 4443  
Sandia Laboratory  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Under contract to Sandia-Albuquerque, International Energy Associates, Ltd. (IEALtd), is establishing a computer program for storing and retrieving information relating to the reactor pressure vessel materials in operating nuclear plants. Some of the data being programmed by IEALtd. are proprietary in the opinion of one of the NSSS vendors, B&W. The documents containing the proprietary data were identified by special attachments. The USNRC is obliged to protect the proprietary nature of the data and, according to you, your contractor IEALtd. also is constrained to do likewise.

We have been advised that IEALtd. is prepared to forward the data in the format developed under your contract to the respective PWR vendors, namely: C.E., B&W and Westinghouse. A review of the data submitted to the NRC by the operating PWR licensees was conducted by the Engineering Branch, DOR, NRC. It was decided that there could be no breach of confidence so long as each vendor was provided data relating to plants of his design exclusively, even though some Westinghouse plants contain B&W vessels.

Therefore, you are advised that IEALtd. may send copies of the computerized pressure vessel data to the related NSSS vendor and that steps must be taken to prevent the accident of transmitting one vendor's data to one of the others. Also, IEALtd. may transmit the entire program to WUTA, St. Louis, Missouri.

Meanwhile, the NRC has not completed its study of the problem of maintaining proprietary control over the computerized pressure vessel data. We will keep you informed as we progress.

Very truly yours,

*Richard E. Johnson*

Richard E. Johnson  
Manager TAP A-11  
Engineering Branch  
Division of Operating Reactors  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: L. Kenworthy, I.E.A., Ltd., D.C.

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