

OH 804-4

PROPOSED RULES

*Notice Notice  
Reg Guide*

250 West Water Street  
Apt. 6  
Chillicothe, OH 45601  
September 21, 1979



Secretary Of The Commission  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention Docketing And Service Branch

Gentlemen:

COMMENTS ON DRAFT REGULATORY GUIDE AND VALUE/IMPACT  
STATEMENT ON AUDIBLE-ALARM DOSIMETERS

I would like to offer some comments on the draft regulatory  
guide and value/impact statement on audible-alarm dosimeters  
(Division 8; TASK OH 804-4).

While I was a student in nuclear engineering at North Carolina  
State University, I assisted in the development of a neutron  
radiography unit (NRU) for the NCSU 1 MW<sup>th</sup> PULSTAR REACTOR  
(1977 thru early 1979).

In the course of taking neutron radiographs it was necessary to  
get close to the neutron beam. We had shielded the beam area,  
however neutrons were scattered out of the opening where the  
film cassette was placed for exposure. A "chirper" type of  
audible-alarm was worn as a means of keeping us aware of the  
radiation field, and would motivate us to move as far away from  
the beam area as possible while film exposure was taking place  
(3-5 minutes).

Also while removing the NRU from the reactor beam tube, either  
for reactivity gains to the reactor or to service/modify the  
NRU, chirpers were worn. The beam tube was approximately  
waist high and thus the chirpers were clipped to our belts to  
warn us if we accidentally moved into the beam area (about 7  
inches in diameter). One should note that the reactor had been  
shut down for as long as possible (usually over a weekend) prior  
to the NRU removal to allow for a reduction in the fission-  
product gammas, however the dose rate in the beam area was still  
very high (~ 25 R/hr). Thus we could remove the NRU with a  
minimal radiation exposure.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

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Very truly yours,

8001140105

Robert Tayloe, Jr.  
Nuclear Engineer

RWT:ran

Acknowledged by *[Signature]*