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April 1, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: B. H. Grier, Director, Region I
J. P. O'Reilly, Director, Region II
J. G. Kappler, Director, Region III
K. V. Seyfrit, Director, Region IV
R. H. Engelken, Director, Region V

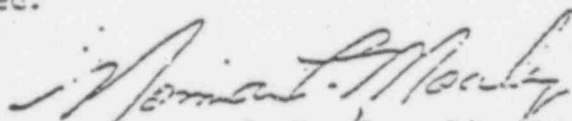
FROM: Norman C. Moseley, Director, Division of Reactor
Operations Inspection, OIE

SUBJECT: IE BULLETIN 79-05, NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT THREE MILE
ISLAND

The subject IE Bulletin should be dispatched for action by April 2, 1979, to all B&W power reactor facilities with an operating license.

Subject bulletin and enclosures should also be dispatched for information to all other power reactor facilities with an operating license and to all power reactor construction permit holders.

Text of the Bulletin, Enclosure 2 and draft letters to the licensee are enclosed for this purpose. Enclosure 1 which consists of the referenced Preliminary Notifications, should be added by the regional office. The letters to the licensee make the commitment to forward the continuing Preliminary Notifications of the incident. These should be forwarded as they are received.



Norman C. Moseley, Director
Division of Reactor Operations
Inspection
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosures:

1. Draft Transmittal Letters to B&W Licensees
2. Draft Transmittal Letter to all other power facilities
3. IE Bulletin No. 79-05
4. Enclosure 2, to the Bulletin

ATTACH: D.C. Kirkpatrick, IE
49-22160

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

April 1, 1979

IE Bulletin No. 79-05

NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Description of Circumstances:

On March 28, 1979 the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2 experienced core damage which resulted from a series of events which were initiated by a loss of feedwater transient. Several aspects of the incident may have general applicability in addition to apparent generic applicability at operating Babcock and Wilcox reactors. This bulletin is provided to inform you of the nuclear incident and to request certain actions.

Actions To Be Taken By Licensees

(Although the specific causes have not been determined for individual sequences in the Three Mile Island event, some of the following may have contributed.)

For all Babcock and Wilcox pressurized water reactor facilities with an operating license:

1. Review the description (Enclosure 1) of the initiating events and subsequent course of the incident. Also review the evaluation by the NRC staff of a postulated severe feedwater transient related to Babcock and Wilcox PWRs as described in Enclosure 2.

These reviews should be directed at assessing the adequacy of your reactor systems to safely sustain cooldown transients such as these.

2. Review any transients of a similar nature which have occurred at your facility and determine whether any significant deviations from expected performance occurred. If any significant deviations are found, provide the details and an analysis of the significance and any corrective actions taken. This material should be submitted for reference if previously submitted.

Review the actions required by you with transients. The items that

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