



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

*How*  
*C.J. DeBevec*

JUL 6 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. H. Sniezek, Director, DFFMSI, IE  
D. Vassallo, Acting Director, DPM, NRR  
R. C. DeYoung, Director, DSE, NRR  
R. J. Mattson, Director, DSS, NRR  
D. F. Ross, Deputy Director, DPM, NRR  
D. G. Eisenhut, Acting Director, DOR, NRR  
B. K. Grimes, Assistant Director, DOR, NRR  
R. H. Vollmer, Assistant Director, DOR, NRR  
R. A. Hartfield, Chief, LOEB, OMPA  
D. Thompson, XOOS, IE  
H. D. Thornburg, Director, DRCI, IE  
B. H. Grier, Director, Region I  
J. P. O'Reilly, Director, Region II  
J. G. Keppler, Director, Region III  
K. V. Seyfrit, Director, Region IV  
R. H. Engelken, Director, Region V

FROM: E. L. Jordan, Assistant Director for Technical Programs,  
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection, Office of  
Inspection and Enforcement

SUBJECT: DRAFT BULLETIN - AUDIBILITY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED ON  
EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL FROM HIGH NOISE AREAS

The enclosed draft IE Bulletin is transmitted for your review and comment. Comments received by COB ten calendar days after the above issue date will be considered in the final version.

*E. L. Jordan*  
E. L. Jordan, Assistant Director for  
Technical Programs  
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosure:  
Draft Bulletin No. 79-

cc: N. C. Moseley, ROI:IE

CONTACT: C. J. DeBevec, IE  
49-28180

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

Draft IE Bulletin No. 79-

AUDIBILITY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED ON EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL FROM HIGH NOISE  
AREAS

Description of Circumstances:

On January 4 and 22, 1979, 6 and 8 licensee personnel, respectively, were engaged in routine activities in the auxiliary building at the Florida Power Corporation, Crystal River Unit 3 nuclear plant. While these individuals were working in the auxiliary building, in a high-noise (fan) area, an unplanned release of radioactive noble gases was detected by building monitors within the auxiliary building at concentrations which initiated the facility emergency plan auxiliary building evacuation procedure. The facility Emergency Officer (Shift Supervisor) assessed the monitor readings and initiated an auxiliary building evacuation. The evacuation announcement, made over the licensee's PA system, was not heard by the personnel working in the high-noise area. Licensee personnel did evacuate the auxiliary building upon observing that other personnel had left, and after calling the control room to inquire if an evacuation had been initiated. During these occurrences, licensee personnel were not exposed to quantities of radionuclides above regulatory guidance. However, the potential existed for inadvertent unnecessary exposure of individuals to radioactive materials.

Subsequent to the NRC inspection of this occurrence, Florida Power Corporation initiated an assessment of this situation and performed an engineering evaluation

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and identified several plant areas where the annunciator system needed audibility improvement. Florida Power Corporation has installed a new auxiliary building evacuation tone signal and may add visual alarm indicators in areas of very high-noise.

Action to be Taken by the Licensees:

For all power reactor facilities with an operating license:

1. Determine whether current alarm systems and evacuation announcement systems are clearly audible throughout all plant areas with emphasis on high-noise areas.
2. Determine what corrective action is necessary to assure that areas identified in (1) above as inaudible areas, will receive adequate audible/visual evacuation signals.
3. Submit within 45 days of the receipt of this Bulletin, a written report of the findings of your evaluation on item (1), and delineate proposed corrective actions per Item **2**.
4. All corrective actions specified for areas where plant evacuation alarms and annunciator systems require improvement, shall be completed within 120 days of the receipt of this Bulletin.

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Reports should be submitted to the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office and a copy should be forwarded to the NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement, Division of Reactor Operations Inspection, Washington, D.C. 20555.

Approved by G/O, B180225 (R0072); clearance expires 7/31/80. Approval was given under a blanket clearance specifically for identified generic problems.



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4. All corrective actions specified for areas where plant evacuation alarms and annunciator systems require improvement, shall be completed within 120 days of the receipt of this Bulletin.

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