

Babcock & Wilcox

Power Generation Group

P.O. Box 1260, Lynchburg, Va. 24505

Telephone: (804) 384-5111

July 20, 1979

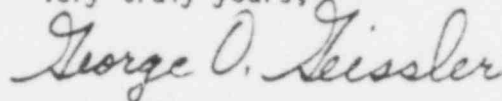
Mr. Edson G. Case
Deputy Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Case:

Attached please find a representative letter which is being forwarded to all B&W operating plants this morning, July 20, 1979. This action informs the utility to trip all RC pumps in the event of an ESFAS actuation caused by low RC pressure.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Ext. 2536.

Very truly yours,



George O. Geissler
Licensing

GOG:dsf

Attachment

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July 20, 1979

All B&W Operating Plants

Subject: Revised Operating Guidelines for RC Pumps
Upon Receipt of ESFAS Actuation

Gentlemen:

The Babcock & Wilcox Company has recently completed additional small break LOCA analyses which have identified a potentially unsafe condition. The details of the analyses were discussed with the owners' representatives on July 18, 1979. In summary, Appendix K criteria may be exceeded for a low probability event involving a certain range of small breaks (approximately 0.025 ft² to 0.2 ft²) and the subsequent loss of RC pumps after the system void fraction has achieved a high value. Analyses have been performed which confirm a safe situation if the RC pumps are tripped promptly in the transient prior to establishing a high void fraction.

Based upon the above information, you are requested to promptly initiate the following B&W recommendation:

Upon receipt of an ESFAS actuation caused by low RC pressure, all operating RC pumps must be tripped immediately.

This revised criteria will of course alter the "immediate action" portion of the Small Break Operator Guidelines previously issued.

If there are further questions, please advise.

Very truly yours,

Service Manager

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