



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

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August 14, 1979

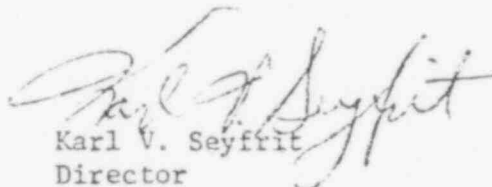
Docket No. 50-298

Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: J. M. Pilant, Director
Licensing & Quality Assurance
Post Office Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Gentlemen:

With this IE Information Notice the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is extending an existing mechanism previously used for informing facility licensees of significant operating events to include informing operator licensees of significant events which could impact on conditions of their NRC licenses. It is requested that the facility licensee provide copies of this IE Information Notice to all NRC licensed individuals at the facility. No specific response is requested at this time. If you have questions regarding this matter please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,


Karl V. Seyffrit
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice
No. 79-20
2. List of IE Information Notices
Issued in 1979

cc: L. C. Lessor, Superintendent
Cooper Nuclear Station
Post Office Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

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

IE Information Notice No. 79-20
Date: August 14, 1979
Page 1 of 3

NRC ENFORCEMENT POLICY - NRC LICENSED INDIVIDUALS

Background:

In the past, NRC licensed individuals have been cited by the NRC for failure to comply with the conditions of their licenses. These items of noncompliance can generally be characterized as serious or repeated failures to follow reactor operating procedures. Two recent events involving the radiation overexposure of NRC licensed individuals through their violation of utility procedures, facility Technical Specifications and the Code of Federal Regulations have raised questions about the exercise of their responsibilities.

The purpose of this Information Notice is two-fold:

1. To remind the NRC licensed individuals of their responsibilities, not only in the proper operation of the facility controls, but in compliance with the facility administrative procedures; and
2. To summarize the enforcement sanctions available to the NRC for use against licensed individuals.

Description of Circumstances:

1. Responsibilities

Facility licensees are charged with the responsibility to design, construct and operate their plants in accordance with NRC requirements to assure that public health and safety are protected. The role of NRC licensed individuals is no less important in the overall Regulatory scheme. The NRC recognizes that timely actions by NRC licensed individuals are an important part of safety. Reliance on these actions is a part of the defense-in-depth concept. Specifically, the NRC requires that:

- (1) Only licensed operators are permitted to manipulate the controls that directly affect reactivity (10 CFR 50.54(i))
- (2) Licensed operators are required to be present at the controls at all times during the operation

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