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

September 17, 1979

In Reply Refer To:

RIV

Docket Nos. 50-458/IE Information Notice No. 79-22
50-459/IE Information Notice No. 79-22

Gulf States Utilities
Attn: Dr. J. G. Weigand
General Manager,
Nuclear Projects
Post Office Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Information Notice provides information with regard to a potential unreviewed safety question involving high energy lines and control systems.

Sincerely,

Karl V. Seyfrit
Karl V. Seyfrit
Director

Enclosures:

- 1. IE Information Notice 79-22
- 2. List of IE Information Notices Issued in the Last Six Months

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

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QUALIFICATION OF CONTROL SYSTEMS

Public Service Electric and Gas Company notified the NRC of a potential unreviewed safety question at their Salem Unit 1 facility. This notification was based on a continuing review by Westinghouse of the environmental qualifications of equipment that they supply for nuclear steam supply systems. Based on the present status of this effort, Westinghouse has informed their customers that the performance of non-safety grade equipment subjected to an adverse environment could impact the protective functions performed by safety grade equipment. These non-safety grade systems include:

Steam generator power operated relief valve control system

Pressurizer power operated relief valve control system

Main feedwater control system

Automatic rod control system

These systems could potentially malfunction due to a high energy line break inside or outside of containment. NRC is also concerned that the adverse environment could also give erroneous information to the plant operators. Westinghouse states that the consequences of such an event could possibly be more limiting than results presented in Safety Analysis Reports, however, Westinghouse also states that the severity of the results can be limited by operator actions together with operating characteristics of the safety systems. Further, Westinghouse has recommended to their customers that they review their systems to determine whether any unreviewed safety questions exist.

This IE Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If NRC evaluations so indicate, further licensee actions may be requested or required. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

No written response to this Information Notice is required.

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