



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

Docket Nos.: 50-327
50-328

Mr. H. G. Parris
Manager of Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
500A Chestnut Street Tower II
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

Dear Mr. Parris:

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL UNREVIEWED SAFETY QUESTION ON INTERACTION BETWEEN
NON-SAFETY GRADE SYSTEMS AND SAFETY GRADE SYSTEMS

You were informed by IE Information Notice 79-22, issued September 14, 1979, that certain non-safety grade equipment, if subjected to an adverse environment, could impact the safety analyses and the adequacy of the protective functions performed by safety grade equipment. Enclosed is a copy of IE Information Notice 79-22, and reprinted copies of an August 30, 1979 Westinghouse letter and a September 10, 1979 Public Service Electric and Gas Company letter which address this matter.

The NRC is concerned that a similar potential may exist at other operating light water reactor facilities, including yours, for an unreviewed safety matter related to the effects of the environment on control systems resulting from high energy line breaks inside or outside containment and the results of these effects on the required safety systems.

You are requested to submit by October 30, 1979, the information requested in Bulletin IE 79-22. Please call if there are questions.

Sincerely,

L. S. Rubenstein

L. S. Rubenstein, Acting Chief
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 4
Division of Project Management

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice 79-22
2. Westinghouse's August 30, 1979 Letter (Reprint)
3. Public Service Electric & Gas Company's
September 10, 1979 Letter (Reprint)

cc w/enclosures:
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Tennessee Valley Authority

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ccs:

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

September 14, 1979

Information Notice No. 79-02

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 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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