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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

Docket Nos. 50-352
50-353

AUG 07 1973

Philadelphia Electric Company
ATTN: Mr. V. S. Boyer
Vice President
Engineering and Research
2301 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

Gentlemen:

The enclosed Bulletin No. 79-18 is forwarded to you for information. No written response is required. If you desire additional information regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

R. W. McDermott
for Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Bulletin No. 79-18
2. Listing of IE Bulletins Issued
in Last 6 Months

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ENCLOSURE 1

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

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Date: August 7, 1979
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AUDIBILITY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED ON EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL FROM HIGH-NOISE AREAS

Description of Circumstances:

In January 1979, a number of licensee personnel 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 caused the licensee to initiate 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 followup inspection of this occurrence, Florida Power Corporation initiated an assessment of this situation and performed an engineering evaluation and identified several plant areas where the annunciator system needed audibility improvement. The licensee 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 or visible throughout all plant areas with emphasis on high-noise areas. Determination in high noise areas must be made with the maximum anticipated noise level.

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