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



February 16, 1979

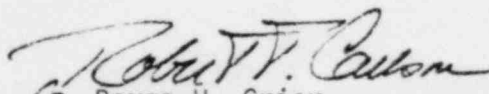
Docket Nos. 50-352
50-353

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

Gentlemen:

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 further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Circular or Bulletin or NRR Generic Letter will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have questions regarding the matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


for Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 79-04
2. List of IE Information Notices
Issued in 1979

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

IE Information Notice No. 79-04
Date: February 16, 1979
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DEGRADATION OF ENGINEERED SAFETY FEATURES

Summary

On September 16, 1978, an unusual sequence of events occurred at Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2. The events involved the electrical power sources and culminated in the spurious activation and degraded operation of Unit 2 Engineered Safety Features (ESF). Analysis of the course of the incident has identified three safety concerns in the electrical distribution system operation and design.

- (1) The offsite power supply for ANO Unit 1 Engineered Safety Feature loads was deficient in that degraded voltage could have resulted in the unavailability of ESF equipment, if it were to be needed.
- (2) The design of the ANO site electrical system that provides offsite power to Units 1 and 2 did not fully meet the Commission's Regulations, 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 17, because in certain circumstances a loss of one of the two offsite power circuits would also result in a loss of the other such circuit.
- (3) Deficiencies existed in the operation of the Unit 2 inverters that convert DC to AC power for the uninterruptable 120 volt vital AC buses.

Description of Circumstances

Initially Unit 1 was operating at 100 percent power; Unit 2 was in hot standby performing hot functional testing in preparation for initial criticality and power operation.¹ Unit 1 auxiliary electrical loads were being supplied from the Unit 1 main generator via the unit auxiliary transformer. Unit 2 auxiliary electrical loads were being fed from the offsite grid through Startup Transformer No. 3. The normal operating status was interrupted by the failure of the Unit 1 Loop "A" Main Steam Line Isolation Valve (MSIV) air operator solenoid causing the MSIV to

¹ The Unit 2 Operating License did not permit criticality or power operation at the time of the incident.

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