UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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Mr. Norman S. Elliot
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Training Center
P. O. Box 1260
Lynchburg, VA 24502

Dear Mr. Elliot:

As I am sure you are aware, the reorganization of the AEC's regulatory staff in the spring of 1972 included the establishment of this Office, with an assigned responsibility for compilation, storage and dissemination of information on operating experience at nuclear facilities. That broad responsibility carries a strong implication of a need to evaluate the impact of human factors and operator error on plant operation.

Manpower limitations have prevented us from embarking on a definitive program in this area, and probably will limit our ability to implement such an effort in the near term future. Nevertheless, we hope to begin assembly of data on human factors and operator errors soon. Such data will be of value in future programs in proportion to the completeness of the file.

We are currently compiling data derived from abnormal occurrence reports submitted by power reactor licensees, including identification of those events caused or aggravated by personnel errors. These events have an important bearing on evaluation of human factors, of course, but they are only part of the data required for evaluation.

Please consider this an invitation to participate actively in our program on this subject. In particular, we would be interested in receiving from you now, information concerning the incidence of reactor scrams occurring on your simulator which were initiated by or the result of operator error, summarized on a periodic basis, perhaps semiannually; and by general categories such as switch ranging, improper valving or equipment operation, mode switch errors, or failure to follow established procedures. Other categories may also be appropriate, of course.

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The purpose of collecting simulator data like these is to compare the experience gained during simulator training with experience accumulated in actual field applications at operating reactors. I am certain you can see some direct benefit to be gained in your own program from such a correlation.

The human factors program under the Office of Operations Evaluation should not be confused with the ongoing programs for evaluating training programs under the cognizance of the Operator Licensing and Operational Safety Branches of the Directorate of Licensing. We shall continue our close liaison with both those branches in our program, however.

We would be happy to discuss our proposed programs in this area with you at any time, and we solicit your suggestions for improving them. Please feel free to contact me (Tp 301-973-7301) or Dudley Thompson, Assistant Director for Information Processing (Tp 301-973-7351) for further information.

Sincerely,

L. R. Shao for

Peter A. Morris, Director
Office of Operations Evaluation
Directorate of Regulatory Operations

cc: D. J. Skovholt, L
P. F. Collins, L