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

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April 28, 1980

In Reply Refer To:

RIV

Docket Nos. 50-498/IE Circular No. 80-09  
50-499/IE Circular No. 80-09

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: Mr. E. A. Turner, Vice President  
Power Plant Construction and  
Technical Services  
Post Office Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77001

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 80-09 is forwarded to you for information.  
No written response is required; however, should you have any questions  
regarding the Circular or its recommendations, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karl V. Seyfrit".

Karl. V. Seyfrit  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Circular No. 80-09
2. List of IE Circulars  
Recently Issued

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

SSINS No.: 6830  
Accession No.:  
8002280663

*Dupe*

IE Circular No. 80-09  
Date: April 28, 1980  
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PROBLEMS WITH PLANT INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

Description of Circumstances at the Kewaunee Power Plant:

On January 17, 1980, the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant lost offsite power to its 4160V non-safeguards buses. Since the system used for internal communications, paging and evacuation alarm purposes (Gai-tronics) was powered from a non-safeguards bus, plant communications were degraded during the outage. This degraded condition persisted until power was restored to the affected bus thru an emergency safeguards bus. While in the degraded mode, the licensee used two-way portable radios for internal communications. The radios performed satisfactorily, per se; however, when transmitting in the vicinity of certain electronic equipment, they induced false signals into the electronic equipment.

Description of Circumstances at the Davis-Besse Power Station:

On October 15, 1979, the Davis-Besse Power Station lost all offsite power. During the period when offsite power was not available, the licensee noted that the internal three digit telephones (GTE) would not function. In addition, the NRC "Red Phone" was subsequently reported to have been out of service. Other licensee phone systems (Gai-tronics and the outside four digit Ohio Bell phones) did work.

Following this event, the licensee provided emergency power to its phones and the NRC took action through AT&T to provide emergency power to all Red Phones. (Note: Although the communications system at Davis-Besse was not designed to meet the single failure criterion, its FSAR states that the main internal communications system is supplied by two redundant power feeders from the uninterruptable instrumentation distribution panels.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR LICENSEES AND HOLDERS OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

All licensees of nuclear power reactors and holders of construction permits should be aware of the potential problems described above. Because of the generic implications of the above problems, it is recommended that the following actions be considered:

1. Determine the source of power for plant internal communications systems;
2. Upgrade the internal communications systems to assure operability during the loss of offsite power or other foreseeable events;

3. Determine whether any plant electronic equipment may be adversely affected by portable radio transmissions. This determination should include, but not be limited to, the computer system, electro-hydraulic system, and nuclear instrumentation system; and
4. Instruct employees on the use of radios in areas susceptible to electromagnetic interference.

No written response to this Circular is required; however, if additional information regarding these matters is required, contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

IE Circular No. 80-09  
April 28, 1980

RECENTLY ISSUED  
IE CIRCULARS

Circular No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued To
80-03	Protection from Toxic Gas Hazards	3/6/80	All holders of a power reactor Operating License (OL)
80-04	Securing of Threaded Locking Devices on Safety-Related Equipment	3/14/80	All holders of a power reactor Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-05	Emergency Diesel-Generator Lubricating Oil Addition and Onsite Supply	4/1/80	All holders of a power reactor Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-06	Control and Accountability Systems for Implant Therapy Sources	4/14/80	Medical licensees in Categories G and G1
80-07	Problems with HPCI Turbine	4/3/80	All holders of a power Reactor Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-08	BWR Technical Specification Inconsistency - RPS Response Time	4/18/80	All General Electric BWR's holding a power reactor Operating License (OL)

Enclosure