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U.S. NUCLEAR REG. COMM.  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON  
REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

NS-TMA-2228

April 9, 1980

Mr. G. Quittschreiber  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Westinghouse Comments on Nuclear Data Link

Dear Mr. Quittschreiber:

Westinghouse is pleased to accept your invitation to provide a written statement regarding a proposed nuclear data link system between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Operations Center and all operating nuclear power plants. In general, Westinghouse supports the overall objective of the Action Plan (NUREG-0660) Task III.A.3 to improve the NRC Emergency Preparedness. Specifically, Westinghouse believes that methods for improving the communications capability between the NRC staff and the staff of an operating plant subsequent to the event of a nuclear accident at the facility are desirable. The NRC staff needs to be accurately informed of the plant status and the actions being taken by the operating staff to mitigate the accident, so that the NRC is capable of communicating with other appropriate governmental agencies - federal, state and local - and with the news media. In particular, in an extreme case, the NRC staff needs the information to permit decisions on implementation of emergency evacuation plans.

Westinghouse does not agree with utilization of the data by the NRC to issue orders governing plant operations, however. Westinghouse believes that all available technical expertise should be accessible to the operating staff of an affected unit in an emergency situation. To this end, Westinghouse has been developing its own Emergency Technical Center with the intention of providing immediate access to knowledgeable, effective support for any of our domestic operating plants in the event of such incidents. In our concept, systems and component designers, familiar with the details of the plant designs, would be available to provide input to the plant operating staff, as well as recommendations for plant recovery operations. Westinghouse believes, however, that all operation decisions should be made by those most knowledgeable of the

Mr. G. Quittschreiber

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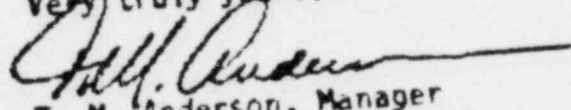
plant capabilities - i.e., the plant operations staff. With appropriate access to input from the plant designers, these individuals are in the best position to make decisions based upon complete knowledge of the situation.

Westinghouse has the following additional comments:

- Any nuclear data link system should be available on an as-needed basis and not continuous. Continuous monitoring would be unnecessarily inefficient and, in general, of little benefit during the vast amount of time when the units are operating at normal conditions.
- Consideration of industry input is necessary in establishing consistency of requirements for implementing any data link. Equipment interface issues, equipment availability and delivery schedules, installation requirements, etc., must all be considered in a decision to require such a system. Specifically, there is an AIF Committee on Safety Parameters Integration which is intended to address this issue, among others, and their input should be considered by the NRC.

We hope that these comments will be useful to the Advisory Committee in establishing their position on the necessity of such a nuclear data link, and are willing to discuss these points with them in more detail if desired.

Very truly yours,

  
T. M. Anderson, Manager  
Nuclear Safety Department

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