



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

PDR
LPDR
TIC ✓
NSIC
CENTRAL FILES

June 10, 1980

In Reply Refer To:

RIV

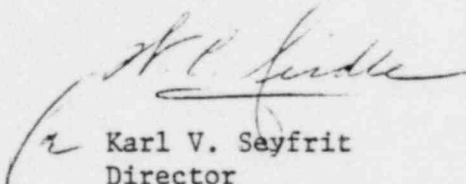
Docket No. STN 50-482/IE Information Notice No. 80-26

Kansas Gas & Electric Co.
Attn: Mr. Glenn L. Koester
Vice President-Operations
Post Office Box 208
Wichita, Kansas 67201

Gentlemen:

This IE Information Notice is being forwarded to you for information. No written response to this information notice is required. If you have any questions related to the subject, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Karl V. Seyfrit
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice
No. 80-26
2. List of Recently Issued
IE Information Notices

cc: w/enclosures

Messrs. Nicholas A. Petrick, SNUPPS
D. T. McPhee, Kansas City Power and Light Company
Gerald Charnoff, Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
E. W. Creel, Kansas Gas and Electric Company

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

SSINS No.: 6835
Accession No.:
8005050064

DUPLICATE

IE Information Notice No. 80-26
To All Part 50 Licensees
Date: June 10, 1980
Page 1 of 2

EVALUATION OF CONTRACTOR QA PROGRAMS

Description of Circumstances:

Appendix B to 10 CFR 50 requires that each applicant and licensee establish and execute a Quality Assurance Program, and that each licensee "shall require contractors or subcontractors to provide a quality assurance program." Further, Appendix B requires each applicant and licensee to regularly review the status and adequacy of subcontractor programs.

The NRC is becoming increasingly concerned by continuing evidence that many holders of construction permits and operating licenses are not properly implementing these facets of their quality assurance programs. Examples of this lack of effectiveness of contractor QA program implementation, and inadequacy of licensee overview of contractor QA program implementation are appearing on every facet of project activity. Instances have been observed where architect-engineers (AE) have released documents for procurement with inappropriate material specifications. Nuclear steam system suppliers (NSSS) have overlooked erroneous assumptions in analysis of instrument system response to design basis transients. Other cases have been observed where both AEs and NSSS have not followed through on commitments to review vendor detailed designs. Vendors' quality assurance programs have been found to contain errors of both omission and commission.

A containment tendon installation contract was awarded to a specialty contractor. During a licensee audit some three months after work started, it appeared that a contractor inspector was falsifying records by initialing inspection points not actually observed. A subsequent investigation by the licensee revealed that the contractor had required that QC inspections be performed only on a random basis, even though all records had QC signatures. The signatures could mean that the activity was inspected or that record signoffs by others were reviewed; or that the data were recorded by the QC inspector. It is apparent that the licensee had not appropriately reviewed the contractor's inspection program prior to the start of work.

In another instance, after completion and acceptance of a major structural steel installation, the licensee found that significant rework would be required to correct construction quality problems. NRC inspection at the contractor's fabrication facility disclosed that in addition to work for that licensee, the contractor had contracts for "high density" fuel storage racks

IE Information Notice No. 80-26
To All Part 50 Licensees
Date: June 10, 1980
Page 2 of 2

from several operating licensees. None of the NRC licensees had inspected the contractor's shop or examined his quality assurance programs.

Response to Information Notice No. 80-26 is not required. The NRC expects appropriate action from all licensees and organizations engaged in nuclear activities and actions will be examined in the ongoing NRC inspection program.

LISTING OF RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date issued	Issued To
80-20	Loss of Decay Heat Removal Capability at Davis-Besse Unit 1 while in a Refueling Mode	5/8/80	All light water reactor facilities holding power reactor Operating Licenses (OLs) or Construction Permits (CPs)
80-21	Anchorage and Support of Safety-Related Electrical Equipment	5/16/80	All power reactor facilities with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-22	Breakdown In Contamination Control Programs	5/28/80	All power reactor Operating Licenses (OLs) and near term Construction Permits (CPs)
80-23	Loss of Suction to Emergency Feedwater Pumps	5/29/80	All power reactor facilities with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-24	Low Level Radioactive Waste Burial Criteria	5/30/80	All NRC and Agreement State Licensees
80-25	Transportation of Pyrophoric Uranium	5/30/80	Material Licensee in Priority/Categories II-A, II-D, III-I and IV-DI; Agreement State Licensees in equivalent categories

Enclosure