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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

JUN 10 1980

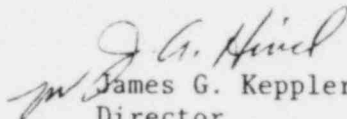
Docket No. 50-409

Dairyland Power Cooperative
ATTN: Mr. F. W. Linder
General Manager
2615 East Avenue - South
La Crosse, WI 54601

Gentlemen:

This 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,


James G. Keppler
Director

Enclosure: IE Information
Notice No. 80-26

cc w/encl:
Mr. R. E. Shimshak,
Plant Superintendent
Central Files
Director, NRR/DPM
Director, NRR/DOR
PDR
Local PDR
NSIC
TIC
Mr. John Duffy, Chief
Boiler Inspector, Department
of Industry, Labor and Human
Relations

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

SSINS No.: 6835
Accession No.:
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June 10, 1980

DUPLICATE

IE Information Notice No. 80-26
To All Part 50 Licensees

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 in every facet of project activity. Instances have been observed where architect-engineers have released documents for procurement with inappropriate material specifications. Nuclear steam system suppliers have overlooked erroneous assumptions in analysis of instrument system response to design basis transients. Other cases have been observed where both AE's 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 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.

RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

| Information Notice No. | Subject | Date Issued | Issued To |
|------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| 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 |
| 80-24 | Low Level Radioactive Waste Burial Criteria | 5/30/80 | All NRC and Agreement State Licensees |
| 80-23 | Loss of Suction to to Emergency | 5/29/80 | All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP |
| 80-22 | Breakdown In Contamination Control Programs | 5/28/80 | All power reactor OLs and near term CPs |
| 80-21 | Anchorage and Support of Safety-Related Electrical Equipment | 5/16/80 | All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP |
| 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 OLs or CPs |
| 80-19 | NIOSH Recall of Recirculating-Mode (Closed-Circuit) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (Rebreathers) | 5/6/80 | All holders of a power reactor OL, Research Reactor License, Fuel Cycle Facility License and Priority I Material License |
| 80-18 | Possible Weapons Smuggling Pouch | 5/5/80 | All power reactor facilities with an OL, fuel fabrication and processing facilities and Materials Priority I licensees (processors and distributors) |
| 80-17 | Potential Hazards Associated With Interchangeable Parts On Radiographic Equipment | 5/5/80 | All radiography Licenses |