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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Hendrie
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne
(Original) Lee V. Gossick

THRU: Lee V. Gossick, Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Victor Stello, Jr., Director, Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

SUBJECT: DRAFT TEKNEKRON REPORT - ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST 18 MONTHS
OF LICENSED OPERATION OF BABCOCK & WILCOX PLANTS

Teknekron Research, Inc. was requested by the IE staff to perform a study of operating nuclear power plants with B&W nuclear steam supply systems using their technique for analyzing causally linked events. Teknekron performed a two phase study using this technique which has been previously reported in NUREG/CR 0110 (Phase I) and NUREG/CR 0979 (Phase II). The results of Phase I were used as one of the three trial methods for Licensee Regulatory Performance Evaluation (LRPE) attempted by the IE staff in 1977 and 1978.

The most recent Teknekron study, the results of which are summarized in the enclosed report, is a part of a continuing effort by the IE staff to develop an effective program for LRPE. Several approaches to LRPE were attempted previously and the results were made available to the public in November 1978. At that time it was reported that each of the three approaches attempted (statistical treatment of noncompliance history, ratings by regional inspectors, and analysis of causally linked events) had strengths and weaknesses, but no single method was favored by the IE technical staff.

Following the Three Mile Island accident, Teknekron was requested to perform a study of operating reactors with B&W nuclear steam supply systems to determine if any further safety insights could be gained by the analysis of operating experience at these facilities as reported through Licensee Event Reports (LER). The importance of evaluating operating experience is emphasized as a lesson learned from the Three Mile Island accident.

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A draft report of the results of this most recent effort by Teknekron is enclosed. Although we have not yet completed our staff review of the report, it is forwarded in its present draft form because of the potential for public interest in the matter.

original signed by
Victor Stello

10/30

Victor Stello, Jr.
Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosure:
As stated

Distribution:

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