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Task Force Members

H. DOPCHIE (BELGIUM) INQUIRY ON ECCS PROTECTION AGAINST BREAK OF VAPOR LINE ON PRESSURIZER

In letter dated April 27 and June 25, 1971, Mr. H. Dopchie (Safety Expert, Belgium) questioned the adequacy of signals which would be generated to initiate emergency core cooling in the event of a break in the vaporizer portion of the pressurizer in PWR reactors. Our reply of September 13th did not satisfactorily resolve these questions.

During the Geneva Conference, Dr. Morris and I held a brief conversation with Dopchie and received a more definitive description of his concerns, and I reached the conclusion that he indeed had raised a safety issue which we had not fully realized. This is further defined in his letter of October 14th, which I requested that he send with a full description of the problem.

In the meantime I understand that Dick DeYoung has presented this problem to Westinghouse and that a suitable solution has not yet been resolved. I believe the Task Force should promptly review this situation and decide on a suitable solution; it may be advisable to reach an interim solution on revised signal arrangements pending a final determination.

In the meantime, Electroble, the contractor consortium involved in design and construction of the Belgium Tihange PWR reactor, has requested that we meet with them on November 18 to discuss this problem. I have replied in an answering telegram that we would be happy to meet them during the week of November 28th if they can arrange their visit at that time.

Clifford K. Beck  
Deputy Director of Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Ltr from H. Dopchie to C. K. Beck dtd 4/27/71
2. Ltr from H. Dopchie to C. K. Beck dtd 6/25/71
3. Ltr from C. K. Beck to H. Dopchie dtd 9/13/71

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