

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20543

August 10, 1979

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER

1. Parley
2. Haldane
3. Johnston
4. Budnitz
5. RDY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold Denton, NRR

THROUGH: Lee Gossick, EDO

FROM: John Ahearn

SUBJECT: INSTRUMENTATION TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF AN ACCIDENT

In a letter dated July 25, 1979, to Mitchell Rogovin, Director of the NRC/TMI Special Inquiry Group, Max Carbon of the ACRS notes "... the response of the NRC (and the AEC before it), in connection with 'instrumentation to follow the course of an accident' has not been adequate. Although this item has been addressed by the issuance of a Regulatory Guide, that Guide has not, to the Committee's knowledge, yet been implemented on any operating nuclear power plant." I assume that Dr. Carbon is referring to Regulatory Guide 1.97, "Instrumentation for Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plant Conditions During and Following an Accident."

It is my understanding that this issue is the subject of unresolved generic activity Task A-34, "Instruments for Monitoring Radiation and Process Variables During Accidents." Originally assigned an A priority and a projected completion date of November 1978, this task was not rated as one of the 21 unresolved safety issues. In fact, it was rated as "Not Directly Relevant to Risk" and therefore work on it was presumably suspended. In the light of TMI (faulty pressurizer level indication, no direct indication of PORV stuck open, lack of adequate capability to monitor accident-level radiation releases), it would seem that this task is directly related to risk and that it should be reconsidered as an unresolved safety issue.

I would therefore appreciate a prompt reply to the following questions:

- 1.a. Has Regulatory Guide 1.97 been implemented at any operating nuclear power plant? If so, at which plants?
- b. Is the Guide being implemented at all plants now under construction?
- 2.a. How has Task A-34 been revised in the light of TMI?
- b. Does the staff now regard Task A-34 as an unresolved safety issue? If not, why not?

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3. What is the present plan and schedule for completing Task A-34 and implementing Regulatory Guide 1.97 at operating plants and plants under construction?

cc: Chairman Hendrie
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Bradford
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OPE
EDD
M. Rogovin ✓
M. Carbon

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