



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

R. Mattern
A-1102
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SEP 4 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Ahearne

THRU: *f* Lee V. Gossick Original signed by R. G. Smith
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: INSTRUMENTATION TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF AN ACCIDENT

This is in response to your memorandum of August 10, 1979, concerning generic activity Task A-34 and Regulatory Guide 1.97 on the subject of instrumentation to follow the course of an accident.

The TMI-1 Lessons Learned Task Force dealt with this subject in Section 2.1.8 of its Short Term Report (NUREG-0578). The Task Force reviewed past efforts by the staff to develop and implement Regulatory Guide 1.97. It was found that the guide had not been implemented on any operating plant, although a lead plant concept had been initiated in 1972 for implementation on the operating license application of Diablo Canyon, Watts Bar and LaSalle. The Task Force has chosen to approach the correction of this problem in three phases in order to ensure the prompt backfitting of instrumentation to follow the course of an accident to all plants.

The first phase is early implementation of the short-term recommendations of the Lessons Learned Task Force, as modified by the August 13, 1979 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. The second phase is to be an early revision of Regulatory Guide 1.97 by the Office of Standards Development for prompt implementation by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation on all operating plants and plants under construction. This second phase is described in the enclosed July 12, 1979 memorandum from Harold R. Denton to Robert B. Minogue. The third phase will be the initiation of research and development activities for those instruments found during the second phase to be beyond the current state of the art.

We expect that plant modifications corresponding to the first phase will be completed by the end of calendar year 1980. We would expect that plant modifications corresponding to the second phase would be complete approximately one year later. It should be possible to define and complete the research in phase three to ascertain which, if any, additional instruments should be required by early 1982.

Prior to the accident at TMI-2, some progress had been made in the resolution of generic task A-34. The enclosed memorandum from Richard DeYoung to R. Mattson, R. Boyd, V. Stello and E. Case documents that progress. Because of the importance that the accident at TMI-2 attaches to this subject area, we have decided to attack the problem along the lines recommended by the Lessons Learned Task Force, as described above, rather than those described in the action plan for task A-34. This in effect gives the problem comparable priority to an "unresolved safety issue."

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Chairman Hendrie
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Bradford
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