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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
631 PARK AVENUE  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

April 18, 1980

Docket No. 50-245

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company  
ATTN: Mr. W. G. Council  
Vice President - Nuclear  
Engineering and Operations  
P. O. Box 270  
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 80-05, "BWR Technical Specification Inconsistency-RPS Response Time," is forwarded to you for information. No written response is required. If you desire additional information regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

*James M. Allan*  
for *Boyce H. Grier*  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Circular No. 80-08
2. List of Recently Issued IE Circulars

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cc w/encls:

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ENCLOSURE 1

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

SSINS No.: 6830  
Accession No.:  
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**DUPLICATE**

IE Circular No. 80-08  
Date: April 18, 1980  
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**BWR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION INCONSISTENCY - RPS RESPONSE TIME**

**Description of Circumstances:**

On March 10, 1980, Vermont Yankee (VY) notified the NRC that the reactor protection system (RPS) response time of 100 milliseconds (from sensor contact opening to and including scram solenoid relay contact opening) specified in the Technical Specification is inconsistent with the value of 50 milliseconds used in the safety analysis. VY verified that actual response times have been below 50 milliseconds since initial plant operation and initiated a Technical Specification change request and plant procedure changes. VY reported that a letter from General Electric Company (GE) informed them of the inconsistency and that the problem may be generic.

Our followup indicates that GE BWR facilities which have Technical Specifications similar to that discussed above may be affected. Based on RPS design and test results, actual RPS response times are expected to be less than 50 milliseconds.

For GE BWR's, we request that you take the following corrective action promptly after receipt of this Circular: (1) verify that the actual RPS response time in the most recent test is less than the value specified in the safety analysis, (2) observe the RPS response time value specified in the safety analysis until a Technical Specification change (if necessary) is approved, and (3) take appropriate actions to make Technical Specification on RPS response time consistent with the RPS response time used in the safety analysis. If a value less than that currently in the Technical Specifications is proposed, the licensee will be expected to provide the basis for that value, including the validity of tests and methods.

No written response to this Circular is required, however, IE will inspect licensee corrective action. If you require additional information regarding this matter, contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

ENCLOSURE 2

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RECENTLY ISSUED IE CIRCULARS

| Circular No. | Subject  | First Date of Issue | Issued To  |
|--------------|--|---------------------|--|
| 79-22        | Stroke Times for Power Operated Relief Valves  | 11/16/79            | All Power Reactor Licensees with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP) |
| 79-23        | Motor Starters and Contactors Failed to Operate  | 11/26/79            | All Power Reactor Licensees with an OL or CP   |
| 79-24        | Proper Installation and Calibration of Core Spray Pipe Break Detection Equipment on BWRs | 11/26/79            | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP  |
| 80-01        | Service Advice for GE Induction Disc Relays  | 1/17/80             | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP  |
| 80-02        | Nuclear Power Plant Staff Work Hours   | 2/1/80              | All Power and Research Reactors with an OL or CP                                       |
| 80-03        | Protection from Toxic Gas Hazards  | 3/6/80              | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL  |
| 80-04        | Securing Threaded Locking Devices on Safety-Related Equipment                            | 3/14/80             | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP  |
| 80-05        | Emergency Diesel Generator Lubricating Oil Addition and Onsite Supply                    | 4/1/80              | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP  |
| 80-06        | Control and Accountability Systems for Implant Therapy Sources                           | 4/14/80             | Medical Licensees in Categories G and G1   |
| 80-07        | Problems with HPCI Turbine Oil System  | 4/3/80              | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP  |