



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

*the*

Docket Nos. 50-245  
50-336

July 29, 1980

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

Gentlemen:

The enclosed Supplement to IE Information Notice No. 80-06 provides additional information with regard to an amendment to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations requiring the immediate reporting by telephone of significant events at operating nuclear power plants. No written response is required. Should you have any questions regarding this information notice, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

*James M. Allan*  
Boyce H. Grier  
Director

Enclosures:

1. Supplement to IE Information Notice No. 80-06 with Enclosure
2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

CONTACT: D. L. Capton  
(215-337-5266)

cc w/encls:

E. J. Mrocza, Station Superintendent  
D. G. Diedrick, Manager of Quality Assurance  
J. R. Himmelwright, Licensing Safeguards Engineer

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ENCLOSURE 1

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

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8006190035

July 29, 1980

IE Information Notice No. 80-06  
Supplement  
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NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT OPERATING POWER REACTOR FACILITIES

Description of Circumstances:

IE Information Notice No. 80-06 (IN 80-06) issued on February 27, 1980, forwarded a Federal Register Notice which indicated that the NRC regulations were amended by adding a new § 50.72, "Notification of significant events", to 10 CFR Part 50. The effective date of the new rule was February 29, 1980. This Information Notice supplements IN 80-06 and provides clarification on types of events that are required to be reported in accordance with the rule.

Public comments on the rule indicate the need for more detailed clarification on what occurrences are reportable in regard to certain event types listed in the rule. Commenters particularly stressed the need to establish more definitive thresholds for notifications of certain types of events. Experience so far with notifications being made in accordance with § 50.72 also suggest the need for clarification and more definitive guidance. The general categorization of some of the event types listed in the rule has resulted in notifications of events of less significance than was originally intended. As stated in the Federal Register Notice implementing § 50.72, the rule was intended to require immediate notification of "serious events that could result in an impact on the public health and safety."

The notification requirements in § 50.72 are currently being evaluated to determine actions needed in light of public comments on and experience with the rule. Notwithstanding future actions which may include some modifications to the rule and supplementary regulatory guidance, a short term need exists for clarifying the thresholds for notifications of certain categories of events. The following paragraphs provide clarification on what is reportable pursuant to the event categories listed in items (1), (7) and (9) of the rule.

Item (1) of § 50.72(a) requires notification of: "Any event requiring initiation of the licensee's emergency plan or any section of that plan." Notifications under this item refer to those initiating events or conditions that place the facility in a "Notification of Unusual Event" status. An unusual event indicates a potential degradation of the level of safety. The following paragraphs describe the initiating events or conditions that are listed on the enclosed pages 4 and 5. The enclosed pages are titled "Action Level Guidelines for Nuclear Power Plants" and "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Emergency Plans and Preparedness in Support of Emergency Response".

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

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