



NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES COUNCIL

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Joe F. Colvin
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer

December 4, 1989

Mr. Carl H. Berlinger, Chief
Generic Communications Branch
Division of Operational Events Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dear Mr. Berlinger:

This letter is in response to your request for our comments regarding the Generic Communications Electronic Distribution System (GCEDS). We have appreciated the opportunity to participate in the pilot program and welcome this opportunity to provide feedback on what we feel is an effective project.

NUMARC's interaction with GCEDS differs from that of a user at a nuclear utility. The information we obtain from the system is used primarily to keep our staff current on issues affecting the nuclear industry. We have also utilized the system to retrieve the text of past generic communications to provide us with necessary background information. The ability to promptly obtain the text of NRC generic communications has made GCEDS a valuable tool for NUMARC.

We feel there are some modifications that could be made to the system to further enhance its usefulness.

- o Consideration should be taken to expand the database to include generic communications issued prior to 1987. For instance, incorporating those generic communications issued as far back as 1979 would encompass the number of documents that resulted from the accident at Three Mile Island.
- o At present, the list of all documents available on GCEDS is quite cumbersome making the retrieval of past generic communications difficult. It would be helpful if the titles of the documents were included in the list along with their numerical designations. Also, the ability to search the list by topic would add to the user-friendliness of this feature.
- o One further addition we feel would be beneficial is the inclusion of information detailing the official NRC definition for each type of generic communication. Such information could include a comparison of the past and present generic communications, their respective functions and the offices within the NRC responsible for issuing them.

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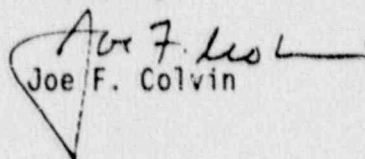
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Overall, we consider GCEDS to be beneficial to NUMARC and to the industry. It is important that NRC generic communications be distributed as quickly and equitably as possible to all necessary parties. Since this system facilitates such distribution, we recommend that it be made a permanent program with full access by all members of the industry.

Should you require any further information, please contact me or Phyllis Rich of my staff.

Sincerely,


Joe F. Colvin

JFC/pmr