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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

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February 9, 1981

In Reply Refer To:
Docket No. 50-188

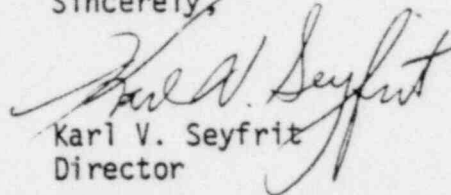
Kansas State University
Department of Nuclear Engineering
ATTN: Dr. R. E. Faw, Director
Nuclear Reactor Facility
Manhattan, Kansas 66502



Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular 81-02 is forwarded for your information. A copy of this circular is also being mailed directly to each licensed reactor operator and senior reactor Operator. No written response is required. If there are any questions related to your understanding of the recommended actions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Karl V. Seyfrit
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Circular No. 81-02
2. List of Recently Issued
IE Circulars

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

IE Circular No. 81-02
February 9, 1981
Page 1 of 4

PERFORMANCE OF NRC-LICENSED INDIVIDUALS WHILE ON DUTY

Description of Circumstances:

Recently, an NRC inspector observed two licensed reactor operators who appeared to be asleep while on duty in the control room. A subsequent NRC investigation into the matter concluded that the operators were not fully attentive to their licensed duties of monitoring reactor conditions, which is a serious matter of safety significance. Furthermore, the investigation concluded that management controls were inadequate to assure the alertness of licensed operators while on duty. Enforcement action was taken after it was determined that attentive operators were not present at the controls as required by 10 CFR 50.54(k).

Discussion:

NRC believes that a relationship exists between the professional attitude of a nuclear plant's operating and management personnel and the degree to which the health and safety of the public is protected. NRC believes that professional attitude is reflected in high standards of performance including pride in the facility as demonstrated by the nuclear power plant staff. Factors making up this professional attitude include knowledge of all aspects of plant status by licensed control room operators, maintaining an orderly and clean working environment, aggressiveness of the operating staff to prevent operational problems, and correcting observed deficiencies. NRC believes that clarification of its position on this subject is necessary because several recent events involving licensed operators indicate a lack of a professional attitude at some nuclear power plants.

The following conditions and practices are among those the NRC believes to be necessary for the maintenance of a professional atmosphere in the control room and throughout the facility.

1. All on-duty NRC-licensed operators and operating supervisors must be aware of and responsible for the plant status. This includes supervisors being responsible for the status of personnel assigned to their shift regardless of specialty affiliation. The status of all personnel must be assured during shift turnover and relief.

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