



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

June 8, 1981



MEMORANDUM FOR: Those Listed Below
FROM: G. L. Madsen, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch, RIV
SUBJECT: IE CIRCULAR NO. 81-04

Subject IE Circular has been sent to the following listed licensees. A copy of the IE Circular is attached for your information.

- Arkansas Power & Light Company
ANO-1 & 2 (50-313; 50-368)
- Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper Nuclear Station (50-298)
- Omaha Public Power District
Ft. Calhoun (50-285)
- Public Service Company of Colorado
Fort St. Vrain (50-267)

G. L. Madsen
G. L. Madsen, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch

Attachment:
As stated

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SSINS No.: 6830
Accession No:
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IEC 81-04

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

DUPLICATE

IE Circular No. 81-04
Date: April 30, 1981
Page 1 of 2

Purpose:

The purpose of this circular is to focus attention on several problems NRC has identified in licensee implementation of the shift technical advisor (STA) program and the program for reporting operational events. Problems in both of these areas have been identified, and to varying degrees, are believed to be fairly wide-spread.

Shift Technical Advisor (STA) Program:

The STA position is a TMI-2 Action Plan Requirement clarified in NUREG-0737 and also in the letter from Mr. H. R. Denton, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, "To All Operating Nuclear Power Plant Licensees," dated October 30, 1979.

The STA position was established to provide additional on-shift technical support and knowledge to the shift supervisors in the areas of operational event evaluation and accident assessment. The primary duties of the STA include providing technical and engineering advice in assuring safe operations of the plant. This is to be accomplished through additional reviews and evaluations of operating events and accident and incident assessments. As the title implies, the position is one of advisor. The duties of the STA should include the review and evaluation of off-normal events. The STA should also provide advice or recommendations to the shift supervisor on the safety significance and reportability of these events as they occur.

Based on results of a recent investigation, NRC has concluded that the STA position is not being utilized to the extent envisioned. It is important that the STA be kept well informed of off-normal events and of safety-related activities being performed by others. By strengthening the STA program, an additional margin of safety can be realized.

Specific areas, identified by our inspection and investigative activities, where it appears that the STA program can be strengthened, include the following:

1. STAs are not routinely being called upon for advice when potential safety problems are identified. The threshold for identifying off-normal conditions the STA should evaluate appears to be too high. It is recommended that licensees review their guidance to STAs and shift supervisors in this area so that use of the STA will be optimized.

2. Basic organizational structures and procedures do not suitably define, in many cases, the functional duties of the STA during operating or shutdown conditions. The working relationships between the STA, who functions in an advisory capacity, and the shift supervisors must be clear in order to achieve improvements in overall safety.

Program for Reporting Operational Events:

Reports of operational events are essential for NRC to carry out its ongoing review and analysis of operating problems. Information provided to NRC must represent a complete picture of the event, the cause, and corrective actions taken. This does not mean that a lengthy description is required. Descriptions may be brief but must be sufficient to reflect the situation as understood at the time of the report. Supplementary reports adding additional facts or reflecting significant changes in the facts surrounding the event must be made on a priority basis commensurate with the significance of the additional facts or changes to facts previously reported.

An evaluation of each off-normal condition and any change in that condition should be made to determine reportability. It is recommended that licensees review with their staffs the importance of ensuring that initial and subsequent important information on off-normal events is reported to NRC as required by conditions of operating licenses and NRC regulations. Although it is important to keep the NRC resident inspector informed of each event, the official NRC notification must be made in accordance with the requirements as stated in the license and NRC regulations.

It is essential that reporting to NRC and other government offices does not detract from the response to the event. Reporting cannot be allowed to degrade safety. It is therefore essential that sufficient shift staffing be provided to meet both event response and reporting requirements.

No written response to this circular is required. If additional information regarding this matter is needed, licensees should contact the director of the appropriate NRC regional office.

IE Circular No. 81-04
April 30, 1981

RECENTLY ISSUED
IE CIRCULARS

Circular No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued To
80-23	Potential Defects in Beloit Power Systems Emergency Generators	10/31/80	All power reactor facilities with Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-24	AECL Teletherapy Unit Malfunction	12/2/80	All teletherapy licensees
81-01	Design Problems Involving Indicating Pushbutton Switches Manufactured by Honeywell Incorporated	1/23/81	All power reactor facilities with an Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
81-02	Performance of NRC-Licensed Individuals While on Duty	2/9/81	All power reactor facilities (research and test) with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
81-03	Inoperable Seismic Monitoring Instrumentation	3/2/81	All power reactor facilities (research and test) with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
81-05	Self-Aligning Rod End Bushings for Pipe Supports	3/31/81	All power reactor facilities with an Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
81-06	Potential Deficiency Affecting Certain Foxboro 10 to 50 Milliampere Transmitters	4/14/81	All power reactor facilities with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)

Enclosure