



Instrument Society of America

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April 15, 1981



Mr. Voss Moore
Division of Human Factors Safety
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Comment on NUREG-0659 Draft Report

Dear Mr. Moore,

Instrument Society of America Standard ISA-S18.1, Annunciator Sequences and Specifications, was approved and issued by the ISA Standards and Practices Department in 1979. This Standard was reviewed and approved by ANSI in February 1981 and is now designated ANSI/ISA-S18.1.

This Standard was prepared by a committee consisting of four major annunciator manufacturers and annunciator users representing many industries. At least three of the committee members work primarily in the electric power generation field. The final Board of Review included 173 interested correspondents from this country and Canada.

This Standard establishes uniform annunciator terminology, sequence designations, and sequence presentation. The terminology of the Standard represents a national consensus.

Section 6.3 of NUREG-0659 covers Annunciators and Auditory Signals. The requirements of this section will be understood and implemented with a minimum of confusion if the terminology used there is the same as that used by the readers.

The NUREG-0659 Draft Report includes only three out of the 42 parts of Section 6.3. This sample makes use of terms such as visual tile, multi-channel, auditory alert, and cleared alarm that may be common to human factors specialists or in military applications, but are not common in the commercial annunciator or utility fields.

Copies of ANSI/ISA-S18.1, Annunciator Sequences and Specifications, a 35 page document, can be obtained for your use from the Instrument Society of America at the below address. I recommend that the terminology of this Standard be used in NUREG-0659 and NUREG-0700 to improve the effectiveness of these important documents. Appendix A in S18.1 is an extensive tutorial description of annunciators used in industry that would be useful to those that are not experienced in this subject area.

Section 6.3.1.1 includes the statement that standard annunciator cabinets are 15 inches high. While power plant annunciator cabinets may

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appear to be consistent in this regard, there is no industry standard. The cabinet dimensions are influenced only by the number and size of the windows, and the panel space available.

I trust that this industry annunciator standard can be used by the NRC also to improve communications among those that specify, manufacture, and use annunciators.

Very truly yours,



Richard L. Emerson
Chairman, ISA SP18 Committee

RLE:cjh

cc: Mr. J. L. Voyles (INPO)
Ms. L. M. Ferson (ISA)
Mr. P. Bliss (ISA)
American National Standards Institute