



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAY 26 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Reactor Safeguards Licensing Branch

FROM: Robert A. Clark, Chief  
Reactor Safeguards Licensing Branch  
Division of Operating Reactors, NRR

SUBJECT: ID BADGE - VITAL AREA ENCODING  
REVIEW GUIDELINE NUMBER 21

10 CFR 73.55(d)(7) states in part that: "The licensee shall positively control all points of personnel and vehicle access into vital areas. Access to vital areas shall be limited to individuals who are authorized access to vital equipment and who require access to perform their duties. Authorization for such individuals shall be provided by issuance of specially coded numbered badges indicating vital areas to which access is authorized." (Emphasis added.)

Many of the licensees plan to use automated/computer controlled access control systems to maintain positive access control to vital areas. This system uses a card or combination badge/key card which is encoded with a unique number. The access control computer is programmed to allow the individual holding this card access to specified vital areas. The program also correlates this unique card with one individual.

For licensees using an automated/computer access control system, an acceptable method of indicating the vital areas to which access is authorized is as follows:

- \* (1) A numbered picture badge that indicates:
  - (a) employee or non-employee,
  - (b) access authorization level (protected area or protected and vital areas),
  - (c) escort requirements.
  
- \* (2) A key card that is uniquely numbered and is correlated to an individual.

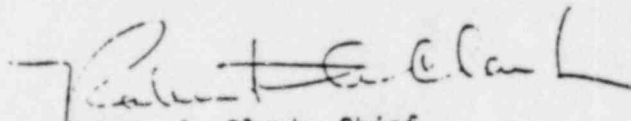
\*The badge and key card may be the same article.

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- (3) A record of each vital area to which the card, and thus the individual, is authorized access.
- (4) The key card is encoded to permit access to only those vital areas to which the individual has been granted access.



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