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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

MAY 1 1981

Illinois Department of
Nuclear Safety
ATTN: Mr. Gary N. Wright
Deputy Director
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704



Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 81-04 titled "The Role of Shift Technical Advisors and Importance of Reporting Operational Events" was sent to the licensees listed below for information on April 30, 1981:

American Electric Power Service Corporation
Indiana and Michigan Power Company
D. C. Cook 1, 2 (50-315, 50-316)

Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company
Zimmer (50-358)

Commonwealth Edison Company
Dresden 1, 2, 3 (50-10, 50-237, 50-249)
LaSalle 1, 2 (50-373, 50-374)
Quad-Cities 1, 2 (50-254, 50-265)
Zion 1, 2 (50-295, 50-304)

Consumers Power Company
Big Rock Point (50-155)
Palisades (50-255)

Dairyland Power Cooperative
LACBWR (50-409)

Iowa Electric Light & Power Company
Duane Arnold (50-331)

Northern States Power Company
Monticello (50-263)
Prairie Island 1, 2 (50-282, 50-306)

Toledo Edison Company
Davis-Besse 1 (50-346)

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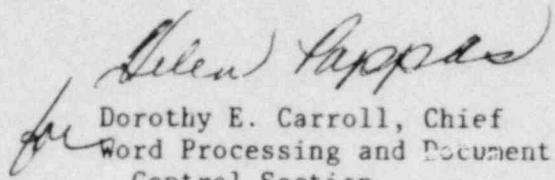
Illinois Department of
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Wisconsin Electric Power Company
Point Beach 1, 2 (50-266, 50-301)

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
Kewaunee (50-305)

Sincerely,


Dorothy E. Carroll, Chief
Word Processing and Document
Control Section

Enclosure: IE Circular No. 81-04

cc w/encl:

Mr. D. W. Kane,

Sargent & Lundy

Central Files

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Local PDR

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

April 30, 1981

IE Circular No. 81-04: THE ROLE OF SHIFT TECHNICAL ADVISORS AND IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING OPERATIONAL EVENTS

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.

Attachment:
Recently issued IE Circulars

RECENTLY ISSUED
IE CIRCULARS

Circular No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
81-06	Potential Deficiency Affecting Certain Foxboro 20 to 50 Milliamper Transmitters	4/14/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
81-05	Self-Aligning Rod End Bushings for Pipe Supports	3/31/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
81-03	Inoperable Seismic Monitoring Instrumentation	3/2/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
81-02	Performance of NRC-Licensed Individuals While on Duty	2/9/81	All power reactor facilities (research & test) with an OL or CP
81-01	Design Problems Involving Indicating Pushbutton Switches Manufactured by Honeywell Incorporated	1/23/81	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
80-25	Case Histories of Radiography Events	12/5/80	All radiography licensees
80-24	AECL Teletherapy Unit Malfunction	12/2/80	All teletherapy licensees
80-23	Potential Defects in Beloit Power Systems Emergency Generators	10/31/80	All power reactor facilities with OL or a CP
80-22	Confirmation of Employee Qualifications	10/2/80	All holders of a power reactor OL or CP architect-engineering companies and nuclear steam system suppliers
80-21	Regulation of Refueling Crews	9/10/80	All holders of a power reactor OL or CP

OL = Operating Licenses
CP = Construction Permit