



CHAIRMAN

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

50-267

April 2, 1981

Mr. R. F. Walker, President  
Public Service Company of Colorado  
P.O. Box 840  
Denver, Colorado 80201



COMMISSION  
CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Mr. Walker:

This is in reply to your letter of December 31, 1980 regarding exempting Ft. St. Vrain licensed operators and senior operators from simulator training requirements.

Your letter was prompted by Item I.A.3.1. of NUREG-0737 that will require use of simulators in operator and senior operator training programs effective October 1, 1981. Your letter also expressed concern that mandatory training on a full scope simulator will also be addressed in a proposed rule change to 10 CFR Part 55.

For your information, the proposed rule change will indicate that alternatives to training on a full scope simulator will be considered provided sufficient justification is included with the proposed alternative. We believe that the items enumerated in your letter should receive consideration. We would require more details concerning the upgraded training discussed in your letter to make a final determination. However, we suggest that you wait until the proposed rule change is issued for comment. We believe a careful reading of all the proposed changes will assist you in formulating your proposed alternative.

Of course, when the final rule is issued you will have to comply or request an exemption.

In addition, our present thinking is that some type of dynamic training tool that can present abnormal and emergency transient information in real time to trainees and licensed personnel should be part of the overall training and requalification programs. A full scope simulator is one such tool. There are others, such as basic principle simulators and part task trainers.

If you require additional information on this subject, please contact Mr. Paul F. Collins, Chief, Operator Licensing Branch, 301/492-7486.

Sincerely,

*Joseph M. Hendrie*  
Joseph M. Hendrie

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