

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 764

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29218

September 8, 1981

T. C. NICHOLS, JR.

VICE PRESIDENT AND GROUP EXECUTIVE
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

Secretary of the Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555
ATTN: Docketing and Service Branch

DOCKET NUMBER

PR-50

(46 FR 34595)

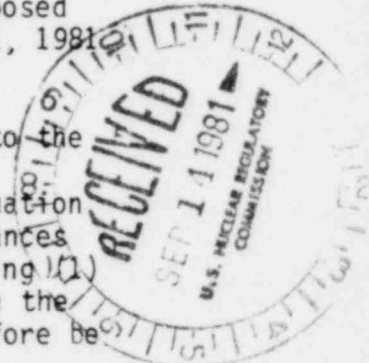
Subject: Proposed Rule Change To 10CFR Part 50
"Reporting of Changes To Quality
Assurance Programs for Nuclear Power
Plants"

Dear Sir:

South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G) has reviewed the proposed rulemaking you sent us in Mr. R. B. Minogue's letter of July 31, 1981 and has the following comments:

The proposed rule speaks of QA program changes being made to the QA program description which has been submitted, needing a written evaluation performed and maintained; and, the evaluation submitted to the NRC regional office when certain circumstances exist. SCE&G feels that this rule is unnecessary considering (1) the program description, submitted in SARs will fall within the existing requirement of keeping SARs current and can therefore be reviewed as changed and submitted as amendments, (2) most evaluations will consist of no more than logic on system preferences which would not aid the NRC review of the program description for acceptability to Appendix B but only create additional documentation requirements on the licensee. It appears that the rule change assumes a licensee would make program changes that do not meet Appendix B, or are not professional enough to ensure they do. This is not the case, and the NRC reviewers should be capable of assessing the compliance of changes to Appendix B without knowing why the licensee thinks the change is acceptable, and (3) the NRC regional office and resident inspectors have direct purview of the QA program description in the SAR and most implementing procedures by being on controlled distribution. Therefore, if any changes are made to the program (even to the lowest implementing procedure), the NRC should be considered apprised and subsequently capable of assessing the change and pursuing questions based on their initiative and without a formal presentation of the change.

In addition to the above, SCE&G sees the possibility that the proposed rule-making, as loosely written, may be construed to require written evaluation of changes to even implementing procedures. As a minimum, if the NRC insists in having formal submittal of changes, the words "change or affect the controls previously established over activities affecting the quality of the nuclear power plant structures, systems and components ..."



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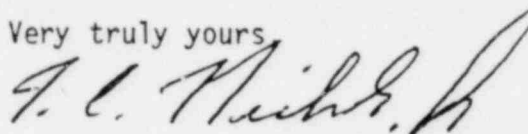
S. Richardson 5650 NL

Docketing and Service Branch
September 4, 1981
Page two

needs to be further defined since any change can do this to some degree.

If there are any questions, please let us know.

Very truly yours,



T. C. Nichols, Jr.

TCN:tdh

cc: V. C. Summer
G. H. Fischer
T. C. Nichols, Jr.
H. N. Cyrus
D. A. Nauman
W. A. Williams, Jr.
R. B. Clary
O. S. Bradham
A. R. Koon
M. N. Browne
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J. B. Knotts, Jr.
H. E. Yocom
NPCF
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**PUBLIC
SERVICE
INDIANA**

S. W. Shields
Senior Vice President -
Nuclear Division

Mr. Samuel J. Chilk
Secretary to the Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

ATTENTION: Docketing and Service Branch

Dear Sir:

In the Federal Register of July 2, 1981 (46 FR 34595) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff solicited comments on a proposed rule on reporting of changes to quality assurance programs. The proposed rule would specifically modify 10 CFRs 50.54 and 50.55.

After reviewing the Federal Register notice, PSI does not find merit to the proposed rule changes. Our comments and rationale are included on the attachment.

PSI appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

S. W. Shields

SWS/RSW/gg

Attachment

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ADD:

S. Richardson 5650 NL



September 3, 1981

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DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR-50
(46 FR 34595)



ATTACHMENT

PSI COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 10 CFRs 50.54 AND 50.55

The comments below apply to both 10 CFR 50.54 and 10 CFR 50.55, as the NRC has proposed to revise them. Essentially two types of reporting changes are proposed:

1. Requirement to keep NRC informed of changes to the utility's quality assurance program.

PSI notes that its Marble Hill Project Quality Assurance Manual already requires submission of changes of a substantial nature to the NRC prior to implementation, and significant changes in organization within thirty days after announcement. This, we feel, already meets the intent of the proposed rule change. Additionally, recent changes to 10 CFR 50.71 regarding FSAR updating would require yearly updating of the QA program descriptions. Absent substantive changes, no additional notification is appropriate and the proposed rule is duplicative.

2. Requirement to prepare and submit formal evaluations identifying the quality assurance program change, reason for the change, and the basis for concluding that the change satisfies the criteria of 10 CFR 50, Appendix B.
 - a. PSI currently identifies with side bars, any changes in the current revision to the project quality assurance manual, with submittal to the NRC as referenced above.
 - b. Section (4) does not adequately define the envelope for which the submittal of evaluations would be required. The wording seems to require submittal for all non-typographical changes to the quality assurance program. However, per the "Supplementary Information" section of the Federal Register notice, PSI understands this not to be the intent. As an example, changes to the reporting structure of the quality assurance organization at low levels may be minor in nature and therefore should not necessitate the preparation and submittal of a formal report. However, sections (4)(i) and (ii), as currently drafted, would seem to require the submittal, nevertheless.
 - c. PSI understands that the ultimate responsibility for program compliance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, would still rest with the licensee or construction permit holder. NRC's intent is still that of review. Supplementary information, if needed to assist the NRC in their review, can easily be obtained on a case-by-case basis, and does not require the proposed rule to give the NRC the ability or authority to request that information.

September 3, 1981

- d. If 50.54 and 50.55 are nevertheless to be revised to require the preparation and submittal of the formal evaluation, the ambiguities of Sections (4)(i) and (ii) should be revised to apply only to changes that might compromise the independence of the quality assurance organization or that might degrade quality assurance program controls.

STONE & WEBSTER ENGINEERING CORPORATION



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DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

PR-50

(46 FR 34595)

Secretary of the Commission
Attention Docketing and Service Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

September 9, 1981

Dear Sir:

PROPOSED RULE
REPORTING OF CHANGES TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE
PROGRAM - 46 FR 34595; JULY 2, 1981

We are pleased to submit our comments on the subject proposed rule.

In paragraph 50.55 (f) (4), the reference to "paragraph (a) (3) of this section" should be changed to read "paragraph (f) (3) of this section."

The terminology "change or affect" contained in paragraphs 50.54 (a) (4) (i) and (ii) and 50.55 (f) (4) (i) and (ii) can be too loosely interpreted. As written, these sections would require the submission of all but the most minor editorial corrections. In addition, the resultant of not submitting all changes to the NRC would be that the NRC's copy of the "current description of the quality assurance program" would not remain current. We suggest that a more practical and appropriate approach would be the automatic issuance of all program revisions to the NRC staff. The forwarding letter should provide the necessary justification/evaluation for the changes. This approach would eliminate the necessity of making an arbitrary, subjective determination as to whether the change must be submitted.

We appreciate this opportunity to assist in the improvement of these regulations, and hope that the above comments will be of use to you in the preparation of your final rule.

Very truly yours,

R B Bradbury

R. B. Bradbury
Chief Licensing Engineer

DJC:mra

DSIO

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ADDI

S. Richardson

WL 5650



TEXAS UTILITIES SERVICES INC.

2001 BRYAN TOWER - DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

Log # TXX-3399

File # 10185

September 8, 1981

DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

PR-50

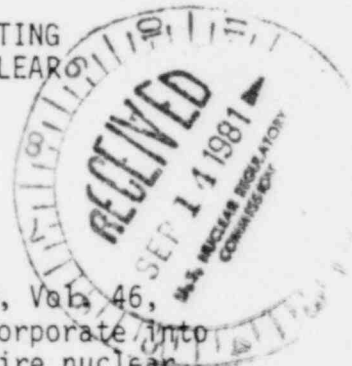
(46 FR 34595)

Mr. Samuel J. Chilk
Secretary of the Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Docketing & Service Branch



SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULEMAKING CONCERNING REPORTING
OF CHANGES TO QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMS FOR NUCLEAR
POWER PLANTS



Dear Mr. Secretary:

On July 2, 1981, the NRC published in the Federal Register, Vol. 46, No. 127, a notice of proposed rulemaking proceeding to incorporate into NRC regulations an amendment which would specifically require nuclear power plant licensees and construction permit holders to implement their approved quality assurance program, provide a current description of their Q.A. program, evaluate changes to their Q.A. program, and for certain changes, report the change to the appropriate NRC Regional Office. In that notice, the Commission requested that interested persons submit comments on the proposed changes by September 8, 1981. Accordingly, Texas Utilities Generating Company submits the following comments:

1. Each individual utility already has an obligation to have and maintain a quality assurance program which meets the requirements of 10CFR50, Appendix B; therefore, this rule change is not necessary.
2. This proposed rule change will require utilities to generate an additional amount of paper work to document reviews that, under an effective quality assurance program, are already being performed.
3. Item 4(ii), which states, "For changes made to the quality assurance program affecting the program description included in the Safety Analysis Report which change or affect the controls previously established over activities affecting the nuclear power plant structures, systems, and components, the evaluation described in paragraph (a) (3) of this section shall be submitted within 30 days of making any change to the appropriate NRC regional office ..." is excessively general. It is subject to interpretation which may result in confusion, overreaction, and a lack of effectiveness.

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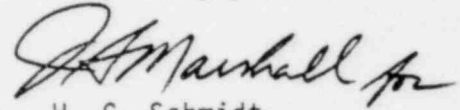
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Texas Utilities appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments to the Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. C. Schmidt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

H. C. Schmidt
Manager, Nuclear Services

DLR/RWH:tls

Brown & Root, Inc.

A Halliburton Company

Post Office Box Three, Houston, Texas 77001

September 3, 1981

DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

PR - 50

(46 FR 34598)

Secretary of the Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Docketing and Service Branch

Subject: Proposed Changes to 10CFR50
Paragraphs 50.54 and 50.55

Gentlemen:

We have reviewed the proposed changes referenced above and after receiving clarification from your Mr. Richardson, have no substantive comments.

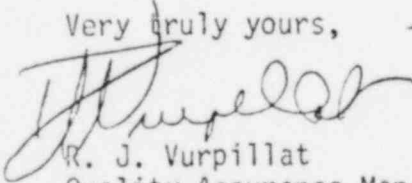
However, with specific regard to paragraph 50.55 proposed changes, we are concerned that subparagraph 4 could be interpreted and expanded to require the preparation, filing and maintenance of an evaluation, similar to the one described in subparagraph 3, for every revision to project procedures, instructions, etc., which implement the provisions of the program description.

We have been assured that such is not the intent. We suggest that consideration be given to rewording the opening portion of subparagraph 4 to read:

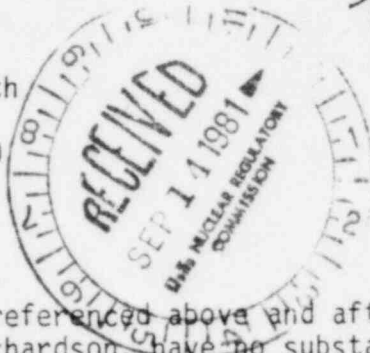
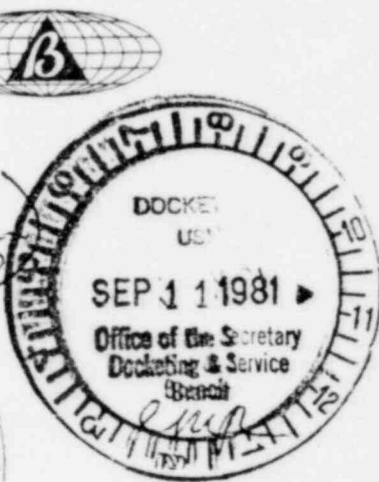
"(4) For changes made to the quality assurance program description included in the Safety Analysis Report. . . "

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,


R. J. Vurpillat
Quality Assurance Manager

RJV:rk



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ADD:
S. Richardson 5650 NL