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MAY 19 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: R. W. Reid, Chief, Operating Reactors Branch #4,  
Division of Operating Reactors

FROM: W. R. Butler, Chief, Plant Systems Branch  
Division of Operating Reactors

SUBJECT: BABCOCK & WILCOX NOTIFICATION UNDER 10 CFR 21  
RE: REACTOR PROTECTION SYSTEM GROUNDING

Plant Names: Arkansas - 1  
Crystal River - 3  
Davis-Besse - 1  
Oconee - 1/2/3  
Rancho Seco  
Three Mile Island 1 & 2

Docket Numbers: 50-313, 50-302, 50-346  
50-269/270/287, 50-312  
50-289/320

Babcock & Wilcox (B&W), by letter dated March 9, 1978, submitted a report regarding an item which B & W believes to be reportable under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 21. The report documented the evaluation of a B & W concern wherein it was postulated that a loss of ground could cause the Nuclear Instrumentation/Reactor Protection System (NI/RPS) of certain B & W nuclear plants to fail to perform its intended function. A copy of the report is provided as Enclosure 1. Also, certain additional information submitted by B & W concerning NI/RPS grounding is provided as Enclosure 2.

We request that the licensee of the above listed nuclear units be provided with a copy of these enclosures and that the licensees be requested to review the grounding system with regard to the concern raised by B & W and to submit their evaluation and proposed corrective actions where required. Further, if the licensees do not have an ongoing test program to verify, on a periodic basis, the ground continuity of the NI/RPS channels, we would require them to promptly formulate and institute such a test program.

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W. R. Butler, Chief  
Plant Systems Branch  
Division of Operating Reactors

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