

July 30, 1982

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Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dr. George C. Anderson  
Administrative Judge  
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University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195

Mr. Ralph S. Decker  
Administrative Judge  
Route 4, Box 190D  
Cambridge, MD 21613

In the Matter of  
Dairyland Power Cooperative  
(LaCrosse Boiling Water Reactor)  
Docket No. 50-409  
(FTOL Proceeding)

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Dear Administrative Judges:

This letter responds to the Board's Memorandum of July 2, 1982 which inquired into matters contained in the January 28, 1982 Staff affidavit and attachments concerning the Staff's calculation of the LaCrosse BWR safe shutdown earthquake (SSE) magnitude. These documents were provided at the Board's request<sup>1/</sup> in regards to the sua sponte issue raised by the Board concerning the Applicant's SSE.<sup>2/</sup>

As suggested by the Board,<sup>3/</sup> I am forwarding the following Commission papers showing the Commission's approval of the SEP program.

- A. Policy Session Item: "The Systematic Evaluation of Operating Nuclear Power Plants," SECY-76-545. November 12, 1976.
- B. Memorandum from Samuel J. Chilk to Lee V. Gossick: Subject: SECY-76-545 "Commission guidance on NRR Systematic Evaluation Program for Operating Reactors," January 27, 1977.

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1/ Memorandum and Order, August 19, 1981

2/ 12 NRC 367 (1980)

3/ Memorandum, July 2, 1982 at 3-4.

- C. Staff Information Report to Commission: "The Conversion of Provisional Operating Licenses (POLs) to Full Term Licenses (FTLs), SECY-77-539, October 14, 1977.
- D. Commission Paper: "Systematic Evaluation of Operating Reactors Phases I and II" SECY-77-561, October 26, 1977.
- E. Memorandum from Samuel J. Chilk to Lee V. Gossick: Subject: SECY-77-561 "Systematic Evaluation of Operating Reactors - Phases I & II," November 15, 1977.
- F. Transcript of Commission Meeting: Briefing on Systematic Evaluation Program, May 6, 1980.

Specifically, the Board should note that the Systematic Evaluation Program was initially presented for Commission approval in 1976 as a major policy issue explained in SECY-76-545. The development of SEP methodology is discussed at pp 6-7 where Phase I of the program is discussed.

[A] series of review teams will be established for evaluating the reactor facilities. Each of the review teams will consist of a Project Manager and various specialists, depending on the group of facilities being evaluated. It will be the responsibility of each team to assure that all backfit decisions on individual reactors have been given appropriate technical and management review and that these decisions are consistent with the backfit decisions of other teams. The evaluation procedures for these teams, including procedural guidelines for arriving at the disposition of each issue considered, will be developed early in the program (in parallel with the screening of issues).

This plan was approved by the Commission on January 27, 1977.<sup>4/</sup>

Subsequently, by a second (October 26, 1977) Commission paper (SECY-77-561), the Staff presented the program which had been developed for review of the older plants and on November 15, 1977 obtained Commission approval of implementation of the program.<sup>5/</sup> As indicated in the November 15, 1977 Memorandum, the Commission requested periodic status reports on the progress of implementing the program and a report to the Commission at the time decisions are to be made for individual plants. Thus it is apparent that the SEP program has been under continual Commission review and approval since its inception.

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<sup>4/</sup> Memorandum from Samuel Chilk to Lee V. Gossick (SECY 76-545) "Commission Guidance on NRR Systematic Evaluation Program for Operating Reactors" (Policy Session Item) January 27, 1977.

<sup>5/</sup> Memorandum from Samuel Chilk to Lee V. Gossick (SECY 77-561) "Systematic Evaluation of Operating Reactors - Phases I & II.

In further response to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's July 2, 1982 Memorandum asking several questions about the SEP seismic evaluation methodology, I am advised by Staff that specific answers to the Board questions can be readily provided by affidavit which is now in preparation and should be in the hands of the Board by mid-August. In addition, the Staff will provide a summary explanation of the overall development of the evaluation methodology of the SEP and the present status of Commission review of the Staff's activities in this matter in response to the Board's inquiry as to the regulatory acceptability and regulatory approval of the SEP seismic methodology. The SEP methodology for quantifying seismic parameters was explained at length to the Commission during the May 6, 1980 briefing session. (Transcript, pp. 14-23).

Sincerely,

Colleen P. Woodhead  
Counsel for NRC Staff

Enclosure:  
as stated

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6/ Memorandum, July 2, 1982 at 3

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