



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

February 11, 1992

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Frank J. Miraglia, Deputy Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SPECIAL REVIEW ASSIGNMENT OF POTENTIAL SAFETY
CONCERNS REGARDING THERMO-LAG FIRE BARRIERS

REFERENCE: Memorandum from T. Murley to F. Miraglia, "Special
Review Assignment and Plan for Response to Allegations of
Potential Safety Concerns Regarding Thermal Science, Inc."
dated August 15, 1991

Attached is the NRR Special Review Team final report that documents the findings and recommendations regarding the Thermo-Lag fire barrier technical issues. A large volume of documents have been reviewed and five site visits were conducted to understand the safety issues and to review the allegations. The primary objective of the review team, to identify any issues of safety significance that could affect the continued safe operation of those plants using Thermo-Lag, has been completed using the guidelines provided in the referenced memorandum.

The review team found sufficient technical information to justify issuance of a generic letter requiring licensees to confirm the adequacy of the Thermo-Lag fire barriers installed to meet 10 CFR Section 50.48. The proposed generic letter is enclosed with the final report. Although the technical issues identified were not judged to be of an immediate safety concern, NRC action is necessary to assure compliance with NRC regulations. In addition, site-specific safety concerns may exist regarding the technical issues identified.

The majority of the technical issues regarding the adequacy of the previous fire endurance and ampacity derating testing can be resolved by conducting testing. Therefore, the review team recommends that the industry conduct fire endurance and ampacity testing to confirm the adequacy of Thermo-Lag. Other testing options are also discussed in the final report.

Several programmatic issues were identified during the course of the review and are discussed in the final report. We recommend these issues be assigned to the cognizant NRR division for further review and corrective action, if necessary.

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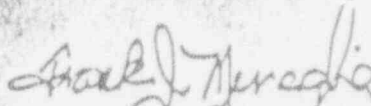
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Since the Special Review Team has completed their primary task, I recommend that the responsibility for followup review activities of the technical concerns be transferred to the Division of Systems Technology following your review of the attached report. In preparation for the transfer, a meeting was held on January 21, 1992, between the NRR technical staff and the Office of the Inspector General.

The line organization that will be responsible for pursuing the Thermo-Lag issues is as follows:

Frank J. Miraglia, Deputy Director, NRR
William T. Russell, Associate Director
for Inspection and Technical Assessment
Ashok Thadani, Director, Division of Systems Technology
Conrad McCracken, Chief, Plant Systems Branch
Ralph Architzel, Chief, Plant Systems Section
Pat Madden, Senior Fire Protection Engineer

The review team is prepared to discuss any specific issues discussed in the report, if necessary.



Frank J. Miraglia, Deputy Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
R. Architzel
P. Madden
K. Walker
E. Pawlik
B. Grimes

cc w/o enclosure:
W. Russell
A. Thadani
C. McCracken
B. Hayes