

PDR

MEMORANDUM FOR: Thomas T. Martin, Regional Administrator
Region I

Stewart D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator
Region II

A. Bert Davis, Regional Administrator
Region III

Robert D. Martin, Regional Administrator
Region IV

John B. Martin, Regional Administrator
Region V

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

SUBJECT: INADVERTENT CONTAINMENT SPRAY EVENTS AT COMMERCIAL
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

The Division of Systems Technology (DST) recently completed an evaluation to determine the appropriate course of action for licensees to take following an inadvertent containment spray event. The staff's review was initiated following the most recent of these events which occurred at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 2, on November 20, 1990. It is interesting to note that 12 of these events have occurred over the past 10 years, six of which occurred during Mode 1 operation.

Based on its review, DST concluded that each containment spray event should be evaluated by the licensee and action should be taken as appropriate based on the results of that evaluation. Unless the specific circumstances of the event dictate otherwise, the licensee should recover from the containment spray event, perform an immediate assessment of existing plant conditions, and develop an action plan to fully address the consequences of the event. Any deficiencies identified should be evaluated in terms of generic implications and appropriate corrective actions should be taken, including reactor plant shut down if warranted.

Although the frequency of inadvertent containment spray events appears to be decreasing, it is likely that these events will continue to occur occasionally. Because an event of this nature can cause significant degradation of plant

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equipment, it is important that the Regions follow these events very closely to assure that licensee actions are appropriate for the circumstances involved. I have enclosed a copy of the staff's SE for your information and future reference.

Original signed by
E. Murley.

James E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
J. Sniezek
J. Partlow
W. Bateman
J. Caldwell

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