



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

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MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Edward L. Jordan, Director  
Office for Analysis and Evaluation  
of Operational Data

SUBJECT: STATUS AND CLOSEOUT OF STAFF ACTION 5(b) RESULTING FROM  
VOGTLE INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

In your June 21, 1990 memorandum, "Staff Actions Resulting from the Investigation of the March 20, 1990, Incident at Vogtle Unit 1 (NUREG-1410)," you assigned AEOD lead responsibility for Item 5(b) addressing the possible need for improvements in NPRDS. Specifically, the staff was to interface with INPO on the need for improvements in (1) the industry's NPRDS reporting guidance and practices for diesel-generator components, and (2) the industry practice in providing NPRDS-reported failures to vendors and the level of vendor use of NPRDS. In addition, the staff was to interface with INPO on the staff's overall evaluation of NPRDS for 1989 to stimulate improvements. AEOD staff met with INPO to discuss these issues in August 1990 (see Summary of August 29, 1990, Meeting with INPO Regarding NPRDS Reporting, dated September 12, 1990); subsequent staff discussions occurred on specific items since that time. The programs described below are expected to enhance the reporting and the use of NPRDS data. Since the industry activities are ongoing, NRC staff will continue to follow the progress through routine programs.

At the August meeting, we were informed that INPO would pursue the diesel-generator component failure reporting issue using an existing process established for dealing with NPRDS reporting inconsistencies, which would include involvement of the NPRDS Users Group (of which NRC is a member). As part of the Vogtle incident investigation, INPO has reviewed a sample of the NPRDS engineering data for plants with Delaval diesel generators (e.g., Calcon sensors) and found indications of inconsistencies in the NPRDS reporting of these components. Subsequently, INPO requested information from the 11 plants with Delaval diesels to assess the breadth of the differences to determine what further actions, if any, were needed. INPO received responses that indicated that inconsistencies existed due to such factors as oversight, the limited guidance that existed for data input prior to 1983, and drawings not showing such components. The responses also indicated that to be responsive, component engineering and failure data were being added to NPRDS. Their review of the responses to the initial survey led INPO to conduct a broader survey regarding the reporting of diesel-generator components. The item was also discussed at the September 1990 NPRDS Users Group meeting.

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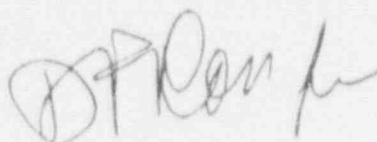
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The responses to the broader survey will be discussed at the next NPRDS Users Group meeting in February 1991 regarding the adequacy of guidance and practices for diesel-generator component reporting. In a related matter, the NPRDS Users Group has recently formed the NPRDS Data Enhancement Working Group. One of the purposes of this working group is to foster improvements in NPRDS data quality and completeness. The NRC is also a member of this working group. INPO's actions have already had a discernible impact on the reporting of diesel-generator components (since some plants increased the number of reported failures as a result of the INPO survey).

The current practices at INPO regarding the dissemination of NPRDS information to vendors, particularly vendors other than NSSS vendors, include several methods. As part of its significant event evaluation and information network (SEE-IN), INPO interfaces with equipment vendors regarding their equipment performance reported to the NPRDS during assessments of individual licensee events and related component operating experience. The results of this interfacing are disseminated to the industry via Operations and Maintenance Reminders (O and MRs), Significant Event Reports (SERs), Significant Operating Experience Reports (SOERs), and Significant Event Notices (SENs). NPRDS data is also made available to component vendors when INPO's periodic reviews of the NPRDS data indicate that a specific vendor's component is experiencing failure rates that warrant attention (e.g., Copes-Vulcan valves, Rosemount transmitters). In addition, INPO supplies equipment vendors with NPRDS data on their products upon request. During 1990, a total of 13 letters were sent to vendors with data regarding performance of their equipment. In addition, the NPRDS Users Group recently formed a working group whose charter includes promoting the usefulness of NPRDS data to utilities and vendors that do not participate in the Users Group. One way in which this charge will be accomplished is through publicizing instances where an NPRDS user (e.g., utility or vendor) has benefitted from using NPRDS data to solve a specific problem, improve equipment performance, or make plant operations more cost-efficient.

At the August meeting, AEOD staff briefed staff and senior managers from INPO's Equipment Performance Department which has responsibility for NPRDS, the Analysis Division which includes EPD, and Government Relations on the results of the staff's overall evaluation of NPRDS for 1989 (SECY 90-239). The NRC representative to the NPRDS Users Group also briefed that group at the September 1990 meeting. INPO indicated that they are responding to user feedback for improvements in several ways. The "Industry Action Plan for Continued Improvement in Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants" submitted to you by NUMARC in February 1990 specifically calls for fostering improvements in NPRDS in several areas - scope, data quality, completeness, and timeliness - for more effective use of NPRDS in conjunction with other plant data to support improved equipment performance. INPO has the lead responsibility for this portion of the action plan and has already initiated actions in the areas identified. In addition, INPO has incorporated ongoing actions for maintaining and improving NPRDS reporting into their routine programs.

The activities which INPO has undertaken to improve the NPRDS data base are continuing efforts. The NRC staff will monitor the progress of these actions through annual evaluations, component studies, failure report trending and participation in the NPRDS Users Group. We expect these programs to improve reporting to NPRDS. Therefore, these action items are closed out for Vogtle follow-up purposes.



Edward L. Jordan, Director  
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cc: T. E. Murley, NRR  
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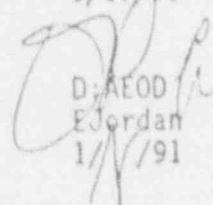
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