

NOV 5 1979

Mr. F. Harrison  
Vice Director  
National Board of Boiler  
and Pressure Vessel Inspectors  
1000 Crupper Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43229

Mr. Harrison:

As noted in the attached Enclosure, a matter involving an improper action by an Authorized Nuclear Inspector was recently brought to our attention. We recommend that this matter be investigated by your Office and appropriate corrective action taken. Please advise if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Victor Stello, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Inspection  
and Enforcement

Enclosure: Memorandum, Stewart  
to Seidle, dated October 19, 1979

cc:  
Mr. H. R. Green  
Managing Director  
Codes & Standards  
The American Society of  
Mechanical Engineers  
345 E 47th Street  
New York, NY 10017

bcc w/o enclosure:  
H. D. Thornburg, IE  
W. R. Rutherford, IE  
K. V. Seyfrit, RIV  
W. Seidle, RIV  
U. Potapovs, RIV

2333 1:5

Mr. E. L. Kessler  
The Hartford Steam Boiler  
Inspection and Insurance Co.  
30 Broad Street  
Hartford, CT 06102

8001170 240

Mr. Stello	A/D:RCI:IE	D:RCI:IE	A/DD:IE	D:IE
Mr. Seidle	W. R. Rutherford	H. D. Thornburg	D. Thompson	V. Stello
Mr. Potapovs	10/1/79:je	10/1/79	10/1/79	10/1/79

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

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FEB 11 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: R. Mattson, Director, DSS  
THRU: J. P. Knight, Assistant Director for Engineering, DSS  
FROM: R. J. Bosank, Chief, Mechanical Engineering Branch, DSS  
SUBJECT: MEB EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION EFFORT AND POTENTIAL FOR LICENSING DELAYS

Background

The Seismic Qualification Review Team (SQRT) was established by the MEB in 1974 to perform a hands-on audit of OL applicant's program used to qualify electrical and mechanical equipment for dynamic seismic input. ICSB/PSB personnel participate in the program to assure the proper electrical function of equipment when subject to seismic input. With the advent of dynamic inputs originating from safety relief discharge or LOCA blowdown into pressure suppression containments and from other sources, the scope of the SQRT effort was expanded to include the qualification of electrical and mechanical equipment for the total dynamic environment expected during service.

The SQRT review at plant sites conducted by the staff team since its inception (all PWR plants and Hatch-2) has emphasized a review of the equipment qualification performed by the applicant, most often single frequency/single axis methods, to determine by a review of the qualification and inspection of the installation whether the criteria in IEEE 344-1975, R/G 1.100, 1.92, and SRP 3.9.2 and 3.10 have been satisfied. Typically preparation for a site visit by SQRT has required approximately 4 man weeks, a site visit is 3-5 days for the 4 man team, post visit evaluation approximately 4 man weeks, for a total of approximately 12 man weeks per plant. Because of difficulties with plants such as Diablo Canyon, the lead Mark II plants (Zimmer, LaSalle and Shoreham) and the time expended to attempt to establish a generic qualification of GE NSSS equipment, plant visits had slipped by several months by late 1978. With the establishment of the interim organization the SQRT was especially hard hit and all staff effort was halted due to a lack of resources by mid May 1979.

The letter from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in mid June 1979 directed to the Department of Defense requesting that DOD assist NRC resulted in our contacting the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in July, reaching tentative agreement with them on work scope, resource requirements and schedules in August and establishing an interagency agreement in September. MEB memo of November 28, 1979 (attached) discusses the significant work accomplished by NRL, including meetings with applicants, architect engineers and NSSS vendors,

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prior to the receipt of the NRL letter of November 19 unilaterally terminating our interagency agreement. The November 19 letter came as a complete surprise to both the NRC and NRL staffs participating in the program. The MEB memo of November 28, 1979 led to the request by Chairman Ahearne to the Office of Management and Budget on the basis of national priority to request reconsideration by the Navy of its November 19 decision. Mr. Denton's letter of January 3, 1980 (attached) also requested such reconsideration. On February 7, MEB was advised by Mr. Dan Gessaman of OMB that efforts to effect a reversal of the Navy's decision had been unsuccessful. Mr. Jesse Funches of Chairman Ahearne's staff was so advised on February 8, 1980.

#### Current Status and Plans

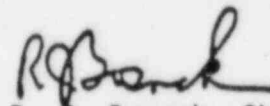
MEB started reviewing alternative sources of assistance in January 1980, both within the government and within private industry. Because of the procedures and long lead times in awarding contracts to private firms, we intend to issue an RFP as soon as possible, but plan to continue checking agencies within government to determine the availability of competent resources to assist us. The alternative of using existing staff personnel is not viable unless experienced persons now assigned to DOR and USI are completely released from all other responsibilities.

#### Impact on Licensing

The NRL contract encompassed 13 plants (Zimmer, Shoreham, San Onofre, Summer, LaSalle, Watts Bar, Midland, Susquehanna, Fermi-2, Waterford 3, Farley 2 and Commanche Peak).

As previously discussed, work had commenced on several plants (Zimmer, LaSalle, Shoreham, Summer). Unfortunately such work will need to be repeated when a new contractor is selected.

It is our best estimate that as a result of the NRL cancellation, schedules for SQRT will have to be slipped by at least eight or nine months. This time appears to be irrecoverable. An operating license cannot be recommended for any plant until the dynamic equipment evaluation is complete. Applicant milestones such as in situ tests will also be severely impacted.



R. J. Bosnak, Chief  
Mechanical Engineering Branch  
Division of Systems Safety

#### Enclosure:

MEB Memo - November 28, 1979

Denton Letter - January 3, 1980

cc: D. Vassallo	O. Parr	R. Satterfield
S. Varga	H. Brammer	F. Rosa
L. Rubenstein	F. Cherny	V. Moore
J. Stolz	S. Hou	D. Ross
R. Baer	J. Funches	