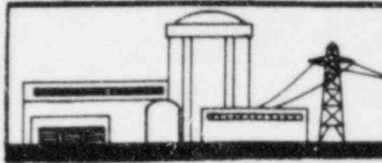


THE B&W OWNERS GROUP

Arkansas Power & Light Company
Duke Power Company
Florida Power Corporation
GPU Nuclear Corporation
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

ANO-1
Oconee 1, 2, 3
Crystal River 3
TMI-1
Rancho Seco



Toledo Edison Company
Tennessee Valley Authority
Washington Public Power Supply
System
Babcock & Wilcox Company

Davis Besse
Belleville 1, 2
WNP 1

Working Together to Economically Provide Reliable and Safe Electrical Power

May 15, 1986

Suite 220
7910 Woodmont Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
(301) 951-3344

Mr. D. M. Crutchfield
Assistant Director for Technical Support
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: B&W Owners Group Plant Reassessment

Dear Mr. Crutchfield:

Attached is a description of the program which has been developed in response to concerns raised in recent months regarding the frequency of reactor trips and complex transients on B&W plants. This new program--designated as the B&W Owners Group Trip Reduction and Transient Response Improvement Program, referred to as STOP-TRIP--represents a substantial expansion and redirection of B&W Owners Group activities. It has a dual purpose; to address the NRC's concerns and to improve plant performance.

The program described in the attached document reflects the NRC's request for a comprehensive study of the B&W plants and is believed to be responsive to the NRC's central concerns related to trip frequency and transient complexity.

The cornerstone of the Program is the extensive operating history data accumulated over the past six years on all of the B&W Owners Group operating plants. This composite operating experience history representing different but similar plants and different utility organizations is considered an invaluable source of information that can be used to identify the problems and develop solutions related to trip frequency and transient complexity. To supplement what can be learned from review of the extensive operating history information, actions are being taken to identify additional areas needing attention. The actions include

8605190150 860515
PDR TOPRP EMVBW
B PDR

2227
11
see DIST ATTACHED

an independent sensitivity study, system and component reviews, operation and maintenance personnel interviews, and risk assessment. These diverse actions indicate the extent to which the Program attempts to identify all significant factors which can contribute to reducing trip frequency and improving transient response on B&WOG plants.

Inasmuch as the reduction of reactor trips and the improvement of transient behavior are the central focuses of this Program, performance improvement goals have been established in both areas. The B&W Owners Group has established a means of monitoring progress toward these goals, and the NRC can also readily monitor this progress.

The B&W Owners Group has initiated a fundamental restructuring of its activities to accomplish the goals of this program. One effect of this restructuring involves the integration of all activities related to the Program's objective and goals. The integration of ongoing projects into the Program means that the effects of some of the improvements should be realized within the next year. To illustrate the likelihood of near-term operational improvements, the attached program document describes recommendations which, are being, or will be considered by the member utilities. The Program will develop other recommendations. The status of the Program actions will be documented in future revisions of this report, which are currently scheduled for August and October 1986.

Revisions of this report will be in the form of revised pages and/or new pages or appendices to the five enclosed controlled copies.

The Program schedule calls for the completion of a major part of the investigative activity in this calendar year. Some significant recommendations will be implemented this year, with others being implemented as the appropriate engineering work is completed. The Program has been structured to make it an ongoing program. This means that while substantial improvement is being targeted for trip reduction and transient response improvement by 1990, the basic program will continue beyond that time and performance improvement is expected to continue.

Throughout the development of the Program, the B&W Owners Group has sought input from the NRC, and we anticipate that this will continue as the program progresses. Consistent with the scheduled milestones for the program, we request that the NRC comments on the attached program description and/or concurrence with it be made available to the B&W Owners Group by May 28, 1986. Following the B&W Owners Group receipt of NRC comments or questions, it may be necessary to have further discussions. If further discussions are needed, they should occur no later than June 4, 1986.

We look forward to the NRC Staff's feedback on the attached program document.

Very truly yours,

R.W. Ganthner for H.B. TUCKER

H. B. Tucker, Chairman
B&W Owners Group
Executive Committee

HBT/leh

Attachment

cc: G. R. Braulke - GPUN
R. Skillman - GPUN
J. McColligan - SMUD
R. W. Ganthner - B&W
J. H. Taylor - B&W

Steering Committee

J. T. Enos - AP&L
N. A. Rutherford - DPCo
E. C. Simpson - FPC
J. W. Langenbach - GPUN
R. A. Dieterich - SMUD
G. K. Dyekman - SS
W. C. Rowles - TED
D. T. Clift - TVA

Executive Committee

T. G. Campbell - AP&L
H. B. Tucker - DPCo
W. S. Wilgus - FPC
R. F. Wilson - GPUN
R. J. Rodriguez - SMUD
B. A. Holmberg - SS
J. Williams, Jr. - TED
J. P. Darling - TVA

G006 Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Owners Group

	<u>Ltr.</u>	<u>Encl</u>
ACRS	6	6
ADM/LFMB	1	0
AEOD DIR	1	0
AEOD ORNSTEIN	1	1
CENTRAL FILE	1	1
NRR BWR ADTS	1	1
NRR DEAGAZIO, A	1	0
NRR DIR	1	0
NRR KADAMBI	1	0
NRR MINER, S	1	0
NRR NICLORAS	1	0
NRR PAULSON, W	1	1
NRR PWR-A ADTS	1	1
NRR PWR-B ADTS	1	0
NRR PWR-B EB	1	0
NRR PWR-B FOB	1	0
NRR PWR-B PEICS	2	0
NRR PWR-B RSB	1	0
NRR SILVER, H	1	0
NRR THOMA, J	1	0
NRR VISSING, G	1	0
NRR/DSRO DIR	1	1
RGN1	1	1
RGN2	1	1
RGN3	1	1
RGN4	1	1
RGN 5	1	1
24X	1	1
LPDR 50-302	1	1
LPDR 50-312	1	1
LPDR 50-313	1	1
LPDR 50-329/330	1	1
LPDR 50-346	1	1
LPDR 50-460	1	1
LPDR OCONEE 1-3	1	1
NRC PDR	1	1
NSIC		
<hr/>		
TOTAL	42 Ltrs.	26 Encl