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

May 9, 1986

Dr. A. David Rossin
Director
Nuclear Safety Analysis Center
3412 Hillview Avenue
P.O. Box 10412
Palo Alto, California 94303

Dear Dr. Rossin:

Subject: Special Study Report - An Overview of Nuclear Power Plant
Operating Experience Feedback Programs (AEOD-S602)

Following resolution of peer review comments from various NRC offices on the draft report and further discussions with your staff and participation as an observer on an INPO plant evaluation, the Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data has finalized its report on nuclear power plant operating experience (OE) feedback programs. The final report contains several recommendations aimed at actions to improve licensee OE review activities within the existing NRC regulatory requirements and guidance. We have recognized industry initiatives in the OE review area and have not recommended major regulatory actions at this time. We plan to continue monitoring the effectiveness of the OE review activities industry-wide through operating experience and reviews of OE review activities. If after two years or so, improvements in the effectiveness of OE reviews are not evident, then we would recommend further regulatory actions. We have enclosed (Enclosure 1) a copy of our final report for your information.

Based on the study, it is AEOD's view that many licensee programs have not yet achieved effective performance levels in all areas. Most plants are making moderate, not extensive, use of their in-house operating experience and in general, less use is made of the large body of knowledge associated with events that occurred elsewhere in the industry. Thus, there is not a high confidence that all the important lessons of operating experience are being thoroughly explored and used. The yield from the screening, assessment, and feedback activities of the NRC, INPO and others in terms of voluntary changes in plant hardware, procedures and training programs by licensees, and the associated reduction in component failures and plant events, seems smaller than expected. In addition, the amount of operating information fed back directly to plant operators, trades personnel, technicians and other non-supervisory personnel is also less than expected. Finally, we found the large volume of operational experience feedback that licensees must deal with is degrading the effectiveness of the feedback programs.

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Dr. A. David Rossin

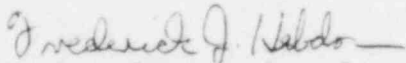
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The recommendations contained in the report are currently being reviewed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff.

A copy of the final report and this letter are being placed in the Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding the enclosed report, please contact me at (301) 492-4484 or J. Crooks at (301) 492-4425.

Sincerely,


C. J. Heltemes, Jr., Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

Enclosure:
As Stated