

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

April 27, 1994

NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER 94-06: VISITS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NUCLEAR
POWER PLANTS

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this administrative letter to inform addressees of the existing NRC policy regarding visits by the public to nuclear power plants. This administrative letter does not transmit or imply any new or changed requirements or staff positions. No specific action or written response is required.

Background

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) sent the NRC the findings of an ANS task force that examined issues associated with tours inside nuclear power plants for members of the public. The task force concluded that, although NRC policy on plant tours (outlined in 57 FR 33426) did not prevent a utility from taking visitors into nuclear power plants, the tone of the policy was having a chilling effect on corporate policies toward public tours.

The ANS task force concluded that visits to power plants can be important contributors to public appreciation of the technology and safety design of nuclear power plants.

Discussion

Attached is the NRC response to the president of ANS. The response supports the efforts by ANS to improve openness at power plants and clarifies the NRC policy that may have resulted in ANS concerns. As noted in the response, NRC regulations do not prevent a licensee from escorting visitors inside the plant or conducting tours by small groups of the public when the purpose of the tour is to enhance public understanding of nuclear safety requirements. The NRC believes that such tours serve a legitimate purpose and are, therefore, appropriate when due consideration is given to plant and personal safety.

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Updated
On
8/1/94

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IDR-5-ADMIN. LTR.

This administrative letter requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the contact listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager.



Brian K. Grimes, Director
Division of Operating Reactor Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Contact: Gene McPeck, NRR
(301) 504-3210

Attachments:

1. Letter to E. Fuller, President ANS
2. List of Recently Issued NRC Administrative Letters

Enclosure filed in Jacket

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTERS

Administrative Letter No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
94-05	Notification Concerning Changes to 10 CFR Part 55	04/25/94	All licensed operators and all holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors, test, and research reactors.
94-04	Change of the NRC Oper- ations Center Commercial Telephone & Facsimile Numbers	04/12/94	All NRC licensees.
94-03	Announcing an NRC Inspec- tion Procedure on Licensee Self-Assessment Programs for NRC Area-of- Emphasis Inspections	03/17/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-02	Acknowledgement of Receipt and/or Update of Official Agency Files of Licensee Submittals	01/28/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-01	Forthcoming NRC Meeting with Industry to Discuss the Potential for Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Gate Valves	01/13/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
93-05	Announcement of Public Workshop on the Form and Content of Design Certification Rules	10/29/93	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
93-04	Announcement of Forth- coming Public Meetings on Whistleblower Pro- tection Activities	09/09/93	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power and research reactors and selected materials licensees.
93-03	Operator Licensing National Examination Schedule	09/07/93	All power reactor licensees and applicants for an operating license.

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit

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*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	PSGB:NRR*	PSGB:NRR*	BC:PSGB:NRR*	D:DRSS:NRR*	TECH ED*	DORS:NRR*
NAME	GMcPeck	LBush	PMcKee	FCongel	JMain	DKirkpatrick
DATE	03/02/94	03/02/94	04/07/94	04/13/94	03/29/94	03/26/94

AC:OGCB:DORS	D:DORS:NRR
AJKugler*	BKGrimes
04/19/94	4/21/94

DOCUMENT NAME: 94-06.AL

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AC:OGCB:DORS	D:DORS:NRR
AJKugler <i>gh</i>	BKGrimes
4/19/94	/ /94

DOCUMENT NAME: NPVISITS. *mlm*

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DATE	03/02/94	03/02/94	04/07/94	04/13/94	03/29/94	03/26/94

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AC:OGCB:DORS	D:DORS:NRR
AJKugler	BKGrimes
/ /94	/ /94

DOCUMENT NAME: GENERIC.LTR

TO: All Power Reactor Licensees

SUBJECT: VISITS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Gentlemen:

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) provided the NRC with the results of the findings of an ANS Task Force that examined issues associated with tours inside nuclear power plants for members of the public. The Task Force concluded that, although NRC policy on plant tours (outlined in 57 FR 33426) did not prevent a utility from taking visitors into nuclear power plants, the tone of the policy was having a chilling effect on corporate policies toward public tours.

The ANS Task Force concluded that visits to power plants can be important contributors to public appreciation of the technology and safety design and could be a major factor in overcoming suspicion and doubt.

Attached is NRC's response to the president of ANS. The response supports ANS' effort to improve openness at power plants and provides clarifications NRC policy that may have resulted in ANS concerns. As pointed out in enclosed letter, the current NRC regulations do not prevent a licensee escorting visitors inside the plant, or conducting tours in the plant. NRC only discourage those tours that could disrupt safe operations or distractive to operators, such as tours of the control room.

The NRC policy should not be interpreted to discourage tours in anyway when due consideration is given to safety.

Brian K. Grimes, Director
Division of Operating Reactor Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
As stated

Distribution:
Central Files
EButcher
DKirkpatrick
PSGB R/F
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Date	3/21/94	3/21/94	3/ /94	3/ /94	3/ /94	3/ /94

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