

July 29, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Farouk Eltawila, Director **/RA/ original signed by J. Rosenthal**
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: GENERIC ISSUE MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM
REPORT – THIRD QUARTER FY 2003

The Generic Issue Management Control System (GIMCS) Report for the Third Quarter of FY 2003 is attached for your information. Significant progress was made during the reporting period on the following generic safety issues (GSIs):

REACTOR GSIs

GSI-80, Pipe Break Effects on Control Rod Drive Hydraulic Lines in the Drywells of BWR MARK I and II Containments: The Task Action Plan for a technical assessment of this issue is currently being developed and is scheduled to be completed in September 2003.

GSI-156.6.1, Pipe Break Effects on Systems and Components: The Task Action Plan for pursuing the issue is scheduled to be revised in July 2003. The ongoing reevaluation of 10 CFR 50.46, "Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants," will be considered in the technical assessment of this GSI.

GSI-163, Multiple Steam Generator Tube Leakage: This issue is an integral part of the NRC Steam Generator Action Plan, the status of which was presented to the Commission in SECY-03-0080 on May 16, 2003, and discussed at a Commission meeting on May 29, 2003.

GSI-168, Environmental Qualification of Electrical Equipment: Regulatory Issue Summary 2003-09 was issued on May 2, 2003. After review and analysis of six LOCA tests, condition-monitoring tests on instrument and control (I&C) cables, and information provided by the nuclear industry, the staff concluded that the existing equipment qualification process is adequate for assuring that I&C cables will perform their intended function. The staff is in the process of closing out this issue with a memorandum to the EDO by August 2003.

GSI-185, Control of Recriticality Following Small-Break LOCA in PWRs: As part of the ongoing technical assessment of this issue, specific recommendations on the proposed course of action are scheduled to be completed in October 2003.

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GSI-186, Potential Risk and Consequences of Heavy Load Drops in Nuclear Power Plants:

The report on the potential risk and consequences of heavy load drops in nuclear power plants (NUREG-1774, "A Survey of Crane Operating Experience at U.S. Nuclear Power Plants from 1968 Through 2002") was completed in June 2003. The publication of NUREG-1774 in July 2003 completed the initial screening stage of the issue. In the technical assessment stage, the RES recommendation on regulation and guidance development is scheduled to be completed in October 2003.

GSI-188, Steam Generator Tube Leaks/Ruptures Concurrent with Containment Bypass: This issue is an integral part of the NRC Steam Generator Action Plan, the status of which was presented to the Commission in SECY-03-0080 on May 16, 2003, and discussed at a Commission meeting on May 29, 2003.

GSI-189, Susceptibility of Ice Condenser Containments to Early Failure from Hydrogen Combustion During a Severe Accident: The staff has concluded that further action to provide back-up power to one train of igniters is warranted for plants with ice condenser or MARK III containments. The staff is currently engaging the affected stakeholders in developing additional information related to implementing various alternatives, including an option of using the severe accident management guidelines. A stakeholders meeting was held on June 18, 2003, and the staff is evaluating comments received from licensees to determine whether rulemaking should be pursued.

GSI-191, Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance: Following meetings with stakeholders on March 5 and April 29, 2003, NRC Bulletin 2003-01 was issued to PWR licensees on June 9, 2003, to (1) confirm their compliance with 10 CFR 50.46(b)(5) and other existing applicable regulatory requirements, or (2) describe any compensatory measures that have been implemented to reduce the potential risk due to post-accident debris blockage, as evaluations to determine compliance proceed.

GSI-193, BWR ECCS Suction Concerns: The staff has completed a probabilistic screening analysis of the issue and is in the process of forming a review panel. The ongoing reevaluation of 10 CFR 50.46, "Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants," will be considered in the screening of this GSI.

GSI-194, Implications of Updated Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Estimates: A staff panel has completed its review of the issue and found that existing NRC programs have adequately addressed the safety concern. The panel's recommendation to drop the issue from further pursuit is undergoing RES management review.

At the end of the reporting period, eight reactor GSIs remained to be resolved, including three GSIs that were transferred from RES to NRR for regulation and guidance development (see Table 1). Four GSIs remained to be screened (see Table 9).

NON-REACTOR GSIs

NMSS-7, Criticality Benchmarks Greater than 5% Enrichment: This GSI has temporarily been placed on hold due to the need to fund higher priority tasks while plant-specific aspects of the issue are being pursued. The staff expects to meet the current completion date for its technical assessment by building on the plant-specific efforts being performed.

At the end of the reporting period, three non-reactor GSIs remained to be resolved (see Table 14).

I will continue to keep you informed of progress in resolving the remaining unresolved reactor and non-reactor GSIs as well as any major problems that might surface during the course of their resolution.

Attachment: GIMCS Report, July 2003

cc w/o att.:

J. Strosnider, RES
J. Rosenthal, RES
M. Mayfield, RES
J. Vora, RES
F. Cherny, RES
P. Norian, RES
S. Collins, NRR
B. Sheron, NRR

G. Holahan, NRR
J. Zwolinski, NRR
M. Kotzalas, NRR
J. Birmingham, NRR
M. Virgilio, NMSS
M. Federline, NMSS
I. Cabrera, NMSS
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W. Usilton, IRM
J. Bell, IRM
H. Miller, Region I
L. Reyes, Region II
J. Caldwell, Region III
E. Merschoff, Region IV
J. Larkins, ACRS
S. Duraiswamy, ACRS

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