

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

STANLEY RAGONE  
PRESIDENT

October 22, 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Attn: Mr. Robert Baer, Chief  
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 2  
Division of Project Management  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

The Utility Group for Regulatory Application has been chartered by 20 utilities holding nuclear construction and/or operating licenses to obtain the generic review of the RETRAN computer code. The RETRAN computer code, which was developed under the sponsorship of the Electric Power Research Institute, is rapidly becoming the principal system safety analysis capability for a substantial portion of the utility industry. RETRAN was developed from the RELAP-4 series of codes and reference data derived from extensive analytical and experimental work for describing the thermal-hydraulic behavior of LWR's under postulated accident and operational transient conditions. Thus, RETRAN includes proven thermal-hydraulic models obtained from current accident and transient analysis codes, as well as other improved models. For this reason, it is now desirable to have the NRC become familiar with the RETRAN code and to resolve any technical concerns that the NRC may have with the code's application to utility licensing submittals.

Due to the large number of potential applications of the RETRAN code, which will require NRC Licensing action, a topical review is appropriate. Therefore, it is requested that the NRC formally review the RETRAN computer code documentation (EPRI-CCM-5 Volumes 1-4). The appropriate number of copies of these topical reports will be provided by EPRI under separate cover. Among the intended applications are the use of RETRAN to evaluate and improve system design and operation, to evaluate safety considerations, and to support licensing submittals. It is the desire of this group to have the NRC review the applicability of the RETRAN computer code for performing accident and transient analysis (excluding analysis performed in compliance with Appendix K to 10 CFR 50) for both PWR's and BWR's and issue a Safety Evaluation Report. Plant specific application and qualification will be the responsibility of each utility using the RETRAN computer code.

To support your review, members of the group will submit, by separate letter, their intended plans for application of RETRAN and commitment that the fee for this review (up to a maximum of \$20,000) will be paid on an equal share basis by all the member companies. The list of member companies is provided in Attachment 1.

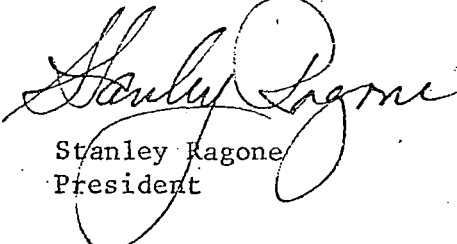
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The utility group consists of a chairman, an executive committee, and members. The executive committee is charged with providing the coordination necessary to accomplish the NRC review of RETRAN as a method for performing reactor transient and accident analysis. The executive committee members are identified in Attachment 2.

Your timely review and issuance of a Safety Evaluation Report on the RETRAN topical report documentation will be appreciated. Should you have questions or desire technical briefings, please contact the group's chairman, Mr. M. L. Bowling (Virginia Electric and Power Company - 804-771-3183).

Very truly yours,



Stanley Ragone  
President

Attachments

cc: Director, Division of Operating Reactors, NRC  
Director, Division of System Safety, NRC  
Dr. Floyd L. Culler, EPRI  
Dr. B. R. Seghal, EPRI  
Dr. S. H. Weiss, Reactor Safety Branch, NRC  
Utilities Shown On Attachment 1

ATTACHMENT 1

ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

DETROIT EDISON COMPANY

DUKE POWER COMPANY

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

GPU SERVICE CORPORATION

LONG ISLAND LIGHTING COMPANY

MIDDLE SOUTH SERVICES INCORPORATED

NORTHEAST UTILITIES

PENNSYLVANIA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

SOUTHERN COMPANY SERVICES, INC.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY

ATTACHMENT 2

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC & POWER COMPANY\* - M. L. BOWLING (804) 771-3183

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY - C. W. SOLBRIG (312) 294-8150

MIDDLE SOUTH SERVICES COMPANY - R. T. FINCH (504) 529-5262

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY - P. A. BERGERON (617) 366-9011

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\*Chairman