

MIDDLE SOUTH SERVICES, INC./BOX 61000/NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70161/(504) 529-5262

JOHN F. VOGT, JR.-VICE PRESIDENT
ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS

December 21, 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

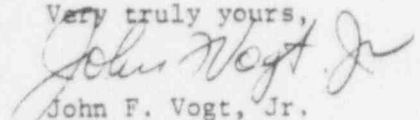
Dear Mr. Denton:

Middle South Services, Inc. (MSS) which is the service company for Middle South Utilities, Inc. is developing a reload design and safety evaluation capability. The best estimate transient thermal hydraulic systems analysis computer code, RETRAN, which has been developed by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) will be used for the transient analysis part of this capability. MSS has joined with other utilities in requesting a timely review by the NRC of RETRAN and the issuance by the NRC of a Safety Evaluation Report on RETRAN. This RETRAN generic review request was transmitted to you by Mr. Stanley Ragone, President of the Virginia Electric and Power Company by letter dated October 22, 1979 (attachment 1). As a member of the utility group requesting the generic review of RETRAN, MSS is committed to pay an equal share of any NRC review fee.

MSS intends to use RETRAN to gain a better understanding of reactor transients, to perform plant specific analyses, to supplement and verify vendor performed generic analyses, and as the transient analysis tool supporting reload licensing of the System's units. MSS has already made a presentation to the NRC concerning the analysis support program for Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit 2 (docket no. 50-368) and Waterford Steam Electric Station - Unit 3 (docket no. 50-382). A copy of the presentation is enclosed (attachment 2).

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our plans in more detail with you in the interest of expediting the RETRAN review process.

Very truly yours,


John F. Vogt, Jr.
Vice-President
Engineering & Operations

JFV:nhr

Attachments

cc: Mr. Robert L. Baer, Chief, Light Water Reactors Branch No. 2
Mr. R. W. Reid, Chief, Operating Reactors Branch No. 4

SERVING: MIDDLE SOUTH UTILITIES, INC. • ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY • ARKANSAS-MISSOURI POWER COMPANY
• LOUISIANA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY • MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY • NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SERVICE, INC.

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Box 1
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Add:
R. Baer
Add:
R. Baer
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Attachment 1

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

STANLEY HADONE
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.

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To support your review, members letter, their intended plans for application for this review (up to a maximum of \$1 basis by all the member companies. The 1 Attachment 1.

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

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