



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

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The Honorable Toby Moffett, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment, Energy and
Natural Resources
Committee on Government Operations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Teknekron Research, Inc. was requested by the IE staff to perform a study of operating nuclear power plants with B&W nuclear steam supply systems using their technique for analyzing causally linked events. Teknekron performed a two phase study using this technique which has been previously reported in NUREG/CR 0110 (Phase I) and NUREG/CR 0979 (Phase II). The results of Phase I were used as one of the three trial methods for Licensee Regulatory Performance Evaluation (LRPE) attempted by the IE staff in 1977 and 1978.

The most recent Teknekron study, the results of which are summarized in the enclosed report, is a part of a continuing effort by the IE staff to develop an effective program for LRPE. Several approaches to LRPE were attempted previously and the results were made available to the public in November 1978. At that time it was reported that each of the three approaches attempted (statistical treatment of noncompliance history, ratings by regional inspectors, and analysis of causally linked events) had strengths and weaknesses, but no single method was favored by the IE technical staff.

Following the Three Mile Island accident, Teknekron was requested to perform a study of operating reactors with B&W nuclear steam supply systems to determine if any further safety insights could be gained by the analysis of operating experience at these facilities as reported through Licensee Event Reports (LER). The importance of evaluating operating experience is emphasized as a lesson learned from the Three Mile Island accident.

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A draft report of the results of this most recent effort by Teknekron is enclosed. Although we have not yet completed our staff review of the report, it is forwarded in its present draft form because of the potential for public interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Victor Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.
Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

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Enclosure:
as stated

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