



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 30, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Edward L. Jordan, Director  
Office for Analysis and Evaluation  
of Operational Data

FROM: *f* Frank J. Miraglia, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation *A. Chedam*

SUBJECT: REPORTABILITY OF REACTOR TRIP BREAKER PROBLEMS AS  
HIGHLIGHTED BY THOSE AT CATAWBA AND MCGUIRE (TAC M40011)

By memorandum dated August 1, 1996, you raised a concern regarding instances in which reactor licensees are failing to report non-emergency events, conditions, or defects. In particular, you were concerned about the failure to report reactor trip breaker (RTB) and RTB bypass breaker problems like those that recently occurred at McGuire and Catawba. We share your concern that failures of RTBs are occurring and yet are not required to be reported.

We reviewed 10 CFR 50.72, 50.73 and 21 and have determined that the reporting requirements of these regulations capture only certain RTB failures. The threshold of reporting and the types of occurrences are defined. The recent failures at McGuire and Catawba would not have been reportable under these regulations. We do not believe that NUREG-1022 can be revised to state a new reporting requirement (i.e. lowering the threshold) since there is no underlying regulatory basis for such guidance. Rulemaking would be required to change the threshold of reporting requirements in any of these regulations.

The Electrical Engineering Branch in NRR has been working with the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) to assess the scope of these types of breaker failures. Based on preliminary information obtained from a WOG survey, there does not appear to be an immediate safety concern regarding the reportability of such breaker failures. Since this information is preliminary, we will continue to work with WOG and share the information we obtain with you. Nevertheless, we share your concerns and would endorse and support AEOD in pursuing revisions to the appropriate regulations to require that these RTB failures be reported.

Your August 1, 1996, memorandum was also addressed to Stewart Ebnetter and James Lieberman. Mr. Ebnetter concurs in this memorandum. Mr. Lieberman has responded to you separately.

Contacts: Peter Tam, 415-1451  
Om Chopra, 415-3265

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\*See previous concurrence

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S. Ebnetter, concurred  
 by telephone thru  
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E. L. JORDAN, AEOD

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DESC:

REPORTABILITY OF REACTOR TRIP BREAKER PROBLEMS  
AT McGUIRE AND CATAWBA

ROUTING:

RUSSELL  
MIRAGLIA  
THADANI  
ZIMMERMAN  
~~GRIMES~~  
BOHRER

*T Martin*

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

DRPE

VARGA

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

<u>ACTION</u>
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY <u>Aug 27, '96</u>