



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 17, 1996

File Center  
T-5c3

Mrs. Carol Morris  
6516 Roy Shafer Road  
Middletown, Maryland 21769

Dear Mrs. Morris:

In your husband's March 21, 1996, letter, he requested that the operating licenses of all nuclear power plants without residual voltage transfer capabilities be suspended until such time as their electrical distribution systems (EDSs) and associated relaying have been shown to be capable of transferring from the normal offsite power source to a capable preferred offsite power source after the high-voltage breakers have isolated the normal source and before the EDS is transferred to the emergency diesel generators (EDGs). He also requested that where the switchyard design makes it possible, it should be shown that the EDS is capable of being transferred from the preferred offsite power source to the normal offsite power source before the EDS is transferred to the EDGs.

Your husband thereafter submitted an addendum of May 8, 1996, to his letter of March 21, in which he again requested action with regard to all nuclear power plant licensees. In accordance with NRC policy, we have completed our evaluation of the concerns set forth in his correspondences, and I am informing you of our conclusions.

NRC-licensed nuclear power plants are not required to have the noted residual voltage transfer capabilities. Such capabilities are not necessary to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of the public health and safety.

Plants licensed without these added transfer capabilities meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 17 (GDC-17), "Electric Power Systems." The NRC's existing and longstanding standard for meeting the requirements of GDC-17 is that nuclear plants must have one immediate and one delayed access electrical power circuit from the offsite transmission network to the on-site emergency power distribution system. The NRC does not require nuclear plant electrical power system designs to possess the transfer capabilities that your husband believed are necessary. The information presented in your husband's letters of March 21 and May 8, 1996, does not lead the NRC to conclude that its current interpretation of GDC-17 requirements is incorrect or otherwise in need of revision.

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IRP-2 Requests &  
Acknowledgments  
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Mrs. Carol Morris

- 2 -

I appreciate your husband's willingness to bring his concerns to our attention and I assure you they were given a complete and fair evaluation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

WILLIAM T. RUSSELL

William T. Russell, Director

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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\* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

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DATE	<del>08/07/96</del>		08/08/96*		8/20/96	9/11/96	9/17/96

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*JWC*  
8/20/96

*#5*  
8/20

Mrs. Charles Morris

- 2 -

the NRR formal generic issue process. He did not do so to the extent necessary to cause the NRC to reevaluate its interpretation of GDC-17.

I recognize that our conclusion in this matter would probably not satisfy your husband's concerns. However, I appreciate his willingness to bring his concerns to our attention and I assure you they were given a complete and fair evaluation.

Sincerely,

William T. Russell, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Chairman Jackson

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NAME	JACalvo	BWSheron	MRAfky	ACThadani	WTRussell	
DATE	08/07/96*	8/8/96	/ /96	/ /96	/ /96	/ /96

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Mr. Charles Morris

- 2 -

the NRR formal generic issue process. He did not do so to the extent necessary to cause the NRC to reevaluate its interpretation of GDC-17.

Sincerely,

James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

*Russell*

cc: Chairman Jackson

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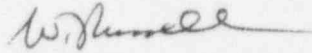
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Mrs. Carol Morris

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I appreciate your husband's willingness to bring his concerns to our attention and I assure you they were given a complete and fair evaluation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Russell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William T. Russell, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation