



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 13, 1996

Mr. G. R. Horn  
Sr. Vice President of Energy Supply  
Nebraska Public Power District  
1414 15th Street  
Columbus, NE 68601

SUBJECT: DRAFT NUREG-1560, "INDIVIDUAL PLANT EXAMINATION PROGRAM:  
PERSPECTIVES ON REACTOR SAFETY AND PLANT PERFORMANCE, SUMMARY  
REPORT," - REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Horn:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a draft of "Individual Plant Examination Program: Perspectives on Reactor Safety and Plant Performance, Summary Report," NUREG-1560. Draft NUREG-1560 is comprised of two volumes. Volume 1 (Part 1) provides an overall summary of the key perspectives. Volume 2 (Parts 2 through 5) provides a more in-depth discussion of the perspectives summarized in Part 1. This report summarizes the insights and findings from our review of the Individual Plant Examinations (IPEs) submitted to the NRC in response to Generic Letter 88-20. A copy of this draft NUREG was recently mailed to your organization for review and comment. The distribution to your organization included: the Plant Managers of the nuclear plants for which you are responsible, the licensee-identified contacts at those plants, and a nuclear executive. Notification of the availability of the NUREG for public comment was also published in the Federal Register on November 14, 1996 (61 FR 58249).

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the availability of this report. We would appreciate any comments you may have as discussed below; however, any response to this letter is voluntary. If you require an additional copy of the report, you may request one by writing to Distribution Services, Printing, Graphics and Mail Services Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Draft NUREG-1560 is based entirely on docketed information submitted to the NRC in conjunction with the IPE program. NUREG-1560 is published as a draft for comment, partly because the staff recognizes that most licensees have updated their IPEs and have made hardware and procedural/operational modifications that have not been reflected in the docketed information. As part of any comments on Part 1, updated information regarding your IPE(s) would be appreciated.

Chapter 8 of Volume 1 of NUREG-1560 discusses the potential need for followup regulatory activities by the NRC based on IPE insights. Comments on those activities would also be helpful.

In addition, comparisons among plants are provided in Volume 1. Although only a few licensees identified vulnerabilities and no common vulnerabilities were identified, the NRC review identified several vulnerabilities as perhaps being

9612180270 961213  
PDR ADOCK 05000298  
V PDR

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

applicable to many BWRs or PWRs. Your insights about your plant or plants in light of these global perspectives are also welcome.

The staff, in its review of the IPEs, pursued five major objectives in documenting perspectives from the reviews:

- (1) The impact of the IPE program on reactor safety, including the number and type of vulnerabilities or other safety issues that have been identified and the safety enhancements that have been implemented.
- (2) Plant-specific features and assumptions that play a significant role in the estimation of core damage frequency (CDF) and the analysis of containment performance.
- (3) The importance of the operator's role in CDF estimation and containment performance analysis.
- (4) The potential role of the IPEs in risk-informed regulation, given the limited scope of the staff's review.
- (5) General perspectives: (a) the implication of the IPE results relative to the current risk level of U.S. plants compared with the Commission's Safety Goals, (b) the improvements that have been identified as a result of implementation of the Station Blackout Rule, and (c) comparison of the IPE results with NUREG-1150.

Response to this letter is voluntary. Please mail any comments on Draft NUREG-1560 (Volumes 1 and 2) by February 14, 1997, to Mary Drouin, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Mail Stop T-10-E50, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. For further information, contact Mr. Edward Chow, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research on (301) 415-6571.

Prior to finalizing NUREG-1560, a 3-day workshop will be held April 7-9, 1997, in Austin, Texas, to address comments and answer questions. Information on the workshop location, agenda, registration, etc., will be published in the Federal Register in mid-December 1996, with notification of availability of Volume 2, Parts 2 through 5, of Draft NUREG-1560. Workshop attendance information should be directed to Martha Lucero, Sandia National Laboratories, telephone (505) 845-9787, fax (505) 844-1392, E-mail mlucero@sandia.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY: A. Thadani for  
Frank J. Miraglia, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No: 50-298

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION: Docket File PUBLIC E.Adensam (EGA1) OGC ACRS M.Drouin

DOCUMENT NAME: A:\GRHORN.LTR \*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	PD113/PM*	PDIV-1/PM	C	(A)LA:PD41	C	*RES/PRAB	C	PD/PD31	C	D/DRW	*ADPR	NRR/D
NAME	RHernan	DWigginton		CHawes	CMH	MCunningham		WBeckner		JRoe	Zimmerman	FMiraglia
DATE	11/12/96	12/1/96		12/1/96		11/12/96		12/10/96		12/16/96	11/22/96	12/1/96

applicable to many BWRs or PWRs. Your insights about your plant or plants in light of these global perspectives are also welcome.


The staff, in its review of the IPEs, pursued five major objectives in documenting perspectives from the reviews:

- (1) The impact of the IPE program on reactor safety, including the number and type of vulnerabilities or other safety issues that have been identified and the safety enhancements that have been implemented.
- (2) Plant-specific features and assumptions that play a significant role in the estimation of core damage frequency (CDF) and the analysis of containment performance.
- (3) The importance of the operator's role in CDF estimation and containment performance analysis.
- (4) The potential role of the IPEs in risk-informed regulation, given the limited scope of the staff's review.
- (5) General perspectives: (a) the implication of the IPE results relative to the current risk level of U.S. plants compared with the Commission's Safety Goals, (b) the improvements that have been identified as a result of implementation of the Station Blackout Rule, and (c) comparison of the IPE results with NUREG-1150.

Response to this letter is voluntary. Please mail any comments on Draft NUREG-1560 (Volumes 1 and 2) by February 14, 1997, to Mary Drouin, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Mail Stop T-10-E50, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. For further information, contact Mr. Edward Chow, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research on (301) 415-6571.

Prior to finalizing NUREG-1560, a 3-day workshop will be held April 7-9, 1997, in Austin, Texas, to address comments and answer questions. Information on the workshop location, agenda, registration, etc., will be published in the Federal Register in mid-December 1996, with notification of availability of Volume 2, Parts 2 through 5, of Draft NUREG-1560. Workshop attendance information should be directed to Martha Lucero, Sandia National Laboratories, telephone (505) 845-9787, fax (505) 844-1392, E-mail mlucero@sandia.gov.

Sincerely,

  
Frank J. Miraglia, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No: 50-298

cc: See next page

Mr. G. R. Horn  
Nebraska Public Power Company

Cooper Nuclear Station

cc:

Mr. John R McPhail, General Counsel  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P. O. Box 499  
Columbus, NE 68602-0499

Lincoln Electric System  
ATTN: Mr. Ron Stoddard  
11th & O Streets  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Nebraska Public Power District  
ATTN: Mr. P. D. Graham  
Vice President of Nuclear Energy  
P. O. Box 98  
Brownville, NE 68321

Midwest Power  
ATTN: Richard J. Singer, Manager-Nuclear  
907 Walnut Street  
P. O. Box 657  
Des Moines, IA 50303

Randolph Wood, Director  
Nebraska Department of Environmental  
Control  
P. O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

Nebraska Public Power District  
ATTN: Mr. B. L. Houston, Nuclear  
Licensing & Safety Manager  
P. O. Box 98  
Brownville, NE 68321

Mr. Larry Bohlken, Chairman  
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners  
Nemaha County Courthouse  
1824 N Street  
Auburn, NE 68305

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P. O. Box 218  
Brownville, NE 68321

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, TX 76011

Ms. Cheryl Rogers, LLRW Program Manager  
Division of Radiological Health  
Nebraska Department of Health  
301 Centennial Mall, South  
P. O. Box 95007  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007

Mr. Ronald A. Kucera, Department Director  
of Intergovernmental Cooperation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102