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Date: 10/8/96 9:48am
Subject: NPSH

John:

The following is from the Maine Yankee ISA report. Does this mean MY has the same problem that CY has? Reading between the lines, it appears MY relies on containment pressure for NPSH.

6.4 Safety Guide 1

NRC Safety Guide 1, "Net Positive Suction Head for Emergency Core Cooling and Containment Heat Removal System Pumps" issued on November 2, 1970, states,

NPSH for emergency core cooling and containment heat removal system pumps caused by increases in temperature of the pumped fluid under loss of coolant accident conditions can be accommodated without reliance on the calculated increase in containment pressure."

Emergency core cooling and containment heat removal systems should be designed so that adequate net positive suction head is provided to system pumps assuming maximum expected temperatures of pumped fluids and no increase in containment pressure from that present prior to postulated loss of coolant accidents.

The NRC should review and clarify its intent relative to relying on containment pressure for assuring appropriate NPSH for emergency core cooling and containment heat removal pumps. Specifically, the issue of whether or not the containment can be assumed to be pressurized at the saturation pressure for the sump fluid temperature should be addressed.

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