

November 5, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Theodore S. Michaels, Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning
Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Thomas H. Essig, Section Chief Original signed by:
Emergency Preparedness and
Environmental Health Physics Section
Emergency Preparedness and
Radiation Protection Branch
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CHANGES TO THE EMERGENCY PLAN RESPONSE PROCEDURES
FOR THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY REACTOR FACILITY
(TAC NO. M96681)

In response to your request of October 9, 1996, we reviewed the updated Emergency Plan Response Procedure submitted by letter, dated September 26, 1996, from Scott Wendt, Reactor Management, Nuclear Engineering Laboratory, Iowa State University. It was submitted to the NRC under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(q).

As you may know, I am a member of the 50.54 Task Group which is looking into the question of handling, evaluating, and responding to 50.54 changes. The Group has recommended certain language to be included in the response to a licensee. We recommend the following language to be included in the response to Iowa State:

Based on your determination that the changes do not decrease the overall effectiveness of your emergency plan, and that it continues to meet the standards of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and the requirements of Appendix E to part 50, NRC approval is not required. Our initial review of these changes indicates them to be in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(q). Implementation of these changes will be subject to inspection to confirm that they did not decrease the overall effectiveness of your emergency plan.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of the letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

In response to Sy Weiss's earlier question regarding the consistency of Iowa State's classification scheme, the licensee's emergency plan has a classification level below the NOUE. It is called a "personnel emergency." Other NPRs call it by different names. This issue was discussed by Larry Cohen at a recent TRTR meeting. We discourage the use of this classification. It causes confusion and is inconsistent with acceptable guidance.

Docket No. 50-116

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Contact: Lawrence K. Cohen, PERB/NRR
301 415-2923

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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