

NOTE: CONTINUATION
OF ACTION LINE
ATTACHED

UNCLASSIFIED

USNRC: JDLAFLEUR, JR
4/11/78: 498-7788
DES/NET/IEC: DHCOOPER

EUR/RPE: UBARMON {INFO}
NEA/RA: HENGELBRECHT {INFO}
IO: SCI: AJILLSON {INFO}

EA/RA: PCLEVELAND {INFO}
ARA: GJONES/JHENNEKE {INFO}
L/N: RJBETTAUER {INFO}

IMMEDIATE ATHENS, BERN IMMEDIATE, BOMBAY IMMEDIATE, BONN IMMEDIATE, BRASILIA IMMEDIATE, BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE, BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE.

USIAEA, USOECD, USEEC - PASS TO PARA 1 PARTIES ASAP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TECH,

SUBJECT: THREE MILE ISLAND INCIDENT REPORT

REF: A-0221

1. ADDRESSEES REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO OFFICIAL NRC CONTACTS IN HOST GOVERNMENTS AND TO VISITING SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS, ASAP, DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, AND TO USE AS APPROPRIATE IN ANSWERING INQUIRIES.

2. ON APRIL 10, ALL LIGHT WATER REACTOR FACILITIES IN THE U.S. WERE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION.

3. THE THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT 2, EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT CORE DAMAGE WHICH RESULTED FROM A SERIES OF EVENTS INITIATED BY A LOSS OF FEEDWATER TRANSIENT AND COMPOUNDED BY OPERATIONAL ERRORS. PRESSURIZER LEVEL INDICATION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR BY LEADING TO ERRONEOUS INFERENCES OF LEVEL IN THE REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IN SOME WESTINGHOUSE-DESIGNED FACILITIES, COINCIDENT LOW PRESSURIZER PRESSURE (LPP) AND LOW PRESSURIZER LEVEL (LLP) SIGNALS ARE REQUIRED TO ACTUATE SAFETY INJECTION, AND FURTHER THAT

1905300407

UNCLASSIFIED

168 138

UNCLASSIFIED

| 2

PRELIMINARY ANALYSES OF A SMALL BREAK IN THE PRESSURIZER INDICATE THAT LP MAY REMAIN HIGH WHILE PP CONTINUES TO DECREASE. IN SUCH A CASE, SAFETY INJECTION WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY OCCUR, AND RELIANCE BY THE OPERATOR ON LP COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO ERRONEOUS ACTIONS. ON APRIL 7, 1979, WESTINGHOUSE ADVISED OWNERS WITH PLANTS HAVING COINCIDENT LOGIC FOR SAFETY INJECTION SIGNALS THAT OPERATORS SHOULD MANUALLY INITIATE SAFETY INJECTION IF PP DROPS BELOW THE SAFETY INJECTION INITIATION SETPOINT.

4. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS AND OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE THREE MILE ISLAND ACCIDENT ARE GENERICALLY APPLICABLE TO WESTINGHOUSE AND COMBUSTION ENGINEERING DESIGNED REACTORS IS STILL BEING REVIEWED, BUT IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT FURTHER ACTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON A PRIORITY BASIS FOR ALL LIGHT WATER POWER REACTOR FACILITIES. MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON APRIL 11, 1979, WITH VENDORS TO DISCUSS THE EXTENT TO WHICH ALL ASPECTS OF THE THREE MILE ISLAND ACCIDENT HAVE GENERIC APPLICABILITY TO WESTINGHOUSE AND COMBUSTION ENGINEERING DESIGNED REACTORS SO THAT FURTHER APPROPRIATE SHORT-TERM CORRECTIVE ACTIONS CAN BE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED. YY

168 139

UNCLASSIFIED