

Signed at Washington, DC, this 14th day of May, 1997.

Ivan Strasfeld,

Director of Exemption Determinations,
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration,
U.S. Department of Labor.

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Merceria L. Ludgood,

Deputy Director, Office of Program
Operations.

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Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W. (Lower Level), Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Margaret S. Chatterton, (301) 415-2889.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
NRC Bulletin 96-01 Supplement 1:
Control Rod Insertion Problems

Addressees

This bulletin supplement is being sent to all holders of pressurized-water reactor (PWR) operating licenses (except those that have certified that they are permanently shutdown). It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems. However, action is only requested from PWR licensees of Westinghouse and Babcock and Wilcox designed plants.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this supplement to Bulletin 96-01 to: (1) Alert addressees to the issues concerning incomplete control rod insertion as a result of distortion of the thimble tubes, (2) request all licensees of Westinghouse and Babcock and Wilcox designed plants take actions to ensure the continued operability of the control rods, and (3) require that all licensees of Westinghouse and Babcock and Wilcox designed plants send to the NRC a written response to this bulletin supplement relating to the actions and information requested in this supplement.

Background

Incomplete control rod insertion has been previously addressed by the NRC in Information Notice (IN) 96-12, "Control Rod Insertion Problems," dated February 15, 1996, and Bulletin 96-01, "Control Rod Insertion Problems," dated March 8, 1996. Bulletin 96-01 requested actions to ensure that all affected plants respond in a proactive manner to recent industry experience and support data collection that permitted the staff to more effectively assess this issue and determine whether further regulatory action was needed. Since Bulletin 96-01 was issued, there has been extensive investigation of the issue, including evaluation of plant data (trip, rod drop time, recoil and drag data), spent fuel pool testing, Zircaloy material property review, and review of worldwide experience.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

1997 Grant Awards to Applicants for Funds To Provide Civil Legal Services to Eligible Low-Income Clients in Service Areas MPA, TX-7, PA-3 and OH-11

AGENCY: Legal Services Corporation.

ACTION: Announcement of 1997 Competitive Grant Awards.

SUMMARY: The Legal Services Corporation (LSC or Corporation) hereby announces its intention to award grants and contracts to provide economical and effective delivery of high quality civil legal services to eligible low-income clients, for the service areas for which competition was reopened in 1997.

DATES: All comments and recommendations must be received on or before the close of business on June 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Legal Services Corporation—Competitive Grants, 750 First Street NE, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20002-4250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Merceria Ludgood, Deputy Director, Office of Program Operations, (202) 336-8848.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Corporation's announcement of funding availability on February 17, 1997 (62 FR 7070-7071) and April 14, 1997 (62 FR 18150-18151), LSC will award funds to one or more of the following organizations to provide civil legal services in the indicated service areas.

Service area	Applicant name
MPA	Philadelphia Legal Assistance Center.
TX-7 ...	Coastal Bend Legal Services.
PA-3 ...	Legal Aid of Chester County, Inc. Delaware County Legal Assistance Assoc., Inc.
OH-11	Legal Aid Society of Columbus. Central Ohio Legal Aid Society, Inc. Ohio State Legal Services.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Proposed Generic Communication; Control Rod Insertion Problems

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to issue a bulletin supplement that will request addressees to take actions to ensure the continued operability of the control rods. These actions will ensure that adequate shutdown margin is maintained and that the control rods will satisfactorily perform their intended function of effectively terminating the fission process during all operating conditions in accordance with the current licensing basis for each facility. The NRC is seeking comment from interested parties regarding both the technical and regulatory aspects of the proposed bulletin supplement presented under the Supplementary Information heading.

The proposed bulletin supplement has been endorsed by the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR). The relevant information that was sent to the CRGR will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. The NRC will consider comments received from interested parties in the final evaluation of the proposed bulletin supplement. The NRC's final evaluation will include a review of the technical position and, as appropriate, an analysis of the value/impact on licensees. Should this bulletin supplement be issued by the NRC, it will become available for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room.

DATES: Comment period expires June 19, 1997. Comments submitted after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given except for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T-6D-69, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Written comments may also be delivered to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 am to 4:15 pm,