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Improvement of nuclear power plant management lessons learned in the '70s and '80s

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Proceedings of the sixth pacific basin nuclear conference

1987

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Abstract	
<p>[en] The U.S. Congress passed a law in 1978 that ordered electric utility companies to cease burning oil or natural gas in their power plants by 1990 and to build no more base load facilities that use these fuels. Except for those few regions of the country with unused hydro-electric potential, that left only coal and nuclear as central station options. The regulatory commissions which set electric rates are state, not federal, agencies. many are not allowing utility companies to increase their rates to levels needed to recover capital costs associated with building new plants. Utilities with unrecovered costs are naturally reluctant to build, or even plan, new generating facilities. This leads many experts to fear the United States will be facing a capacity shortfall in some regions before the end of the century. One tenet of the free enterprise system, as practiced in the United States, is that government should allow private businesses to provide all but the most basic public services, such as police and fire protection. With some exceptions, such as the Tennessee Valley Authority, Washington has left electricity generation, transmission and distribution to the private utility companies. These private companies are given an exclusive franchise to serve in a given geographic area in return for an obligation to meet all customer demands at all times. The rates charged by the company are set by a state agency at a level which is supposed to balance the interests of the customers and the company.(author)</p>	
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