

JUN 08 1978

Docket No. 50-263

Docket No. 50-282

Docket No. 50-306

Northern States Power Company

ATTN: Mr. Leo Wachter

Vice President

Power Production and

System Operation

414 Nicollet Mall

Minneapolis, MN 55401

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 78-09, is forwarded to you for information. No written response is required. Should you have any questions related to your understanding of this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

James G. Keppler
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Circular No. 78-09
2. List of IE Circulars
Issued in 1978

cc w/encls:

Mr. L. R. Eliason, Plant
Manager

Mr. F. P. Tierney, Jr.,
Plant Manager

Central Files

Director, NRR/DPM

Director, NRR/DOR

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DATE

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

June 8, 1978

IE Circular No. 78-09

ARCING OF GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY SIZE 2 CONTACTORS

During routine preventive maintenance of a nonsafety related motor starter at Millstone Unit No. 2, the movable contacts in a General Electric Company (GE) NEMA Size 2 contactor (Part No. CR206D000EEH) were found to have been burned. Binding in the movable part of the contactor prevented a good electrical contact with the stationary contacts resulting in arc-burn damage. GE indicated the cause to be oversized copper tip support binding in the phenolic tip carrier. GE reportedly modified their tooling to correct for the manufacturing problem and inspected the contactor spare part kits in their warehouse for oversized tip supports.

The Northeast Nuclear Energy Company subsequently inspected the remaining GE NEMA Size 2 contactors installed at this facility and replaced oversized tip supports in three safety related and five other contactors.

All holders of an operating license or a construction permit should be aware that the above described GE contactor may be installed in safety related systems at their facilities and give consideration to assuring that these contactors do not have oversized tip supports which could cause poor electrical contact. You may want to also review your spare parts inventories for the plant to assure that similar contactors are not being held for use in safety related systems. Your review of this matter should consider whether corrective or preventive actions need to be implemented at your facility to alleviate the contact problems as discussed.

No written response to this Circular is required. If you require additional information regarding this matter, contact the Director of the NRC Regional Office.

IE Circular No. 78-09
June 8, 1978

LISTING OF IE CIRCULAR ISSUED IN 1978

Circular No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued To
78-01	Loss of Well Logging Source	4/5/78	All Holders of Well Logging Source Licenses
78-02	Proper Lubricating Oil for Terry Turbines	4/20/78	All Holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
78-03	Packaging Greater Than Type A Quantities of Few Specific Activity Radioactive Material for Transport	5/12/78	All Holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OL), Construction Permits (CP), Fuel Cycle, Priority I Material and Waste Disposal Licenses
78-04	Installation Error That Could Prevent Closing of Fire Doors	5/15/78	All Holders of an NRC Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
78-05	Inadvertent Safety Injection During Cooldown	5/23/78	All Holders of a Reactor Operating License (OL), or a Construction Permit (CP)
78-06	Potential Common Mode Flooding of ECCS Equipment Rooms at BWR Facilities	5/23/78	All Holders of Reactor OLs or CPs
78-07	Damaged Components of a Bergen-Paterson Series 25000 Hydraulic Test Stand	5/31/78	All Holders of of Reactor OLs or CPs

IE Circular No. 78-09
June 8, 1978

Circular No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued To
78-08	Environmental Qualification of Safety Related Equipment at Nuclear Power Plants	5/31/78	All Holders of Reactor OLs or CPs