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IN 94-30

# Anchor/Darling

Valve Company • Williamsport, PA 17701

W. G. KNECHT  
Technical Director

April 27, 1994

Mr. Brian K. Grimes, Director  
Division of Operating Reactor Support  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations  
Washington DC 20555

Subject: NRC Information Notice 94-30

Dear Mr. Grimes:

We at Anchor/Darling Valve would like to clarify the Description of Circumstances as stated in the above referenced Information Notice and also provide our insight with regard to cause.

Anchor/Darling Valve Company has never manufactured a double-disc, flex wedge gate valve. The two valves at the Cooper Nuclear Station are 20-inch, 900 class, flex wedge, pressure seal gate valves with SMB-2 Limitorque motor actuators. These valves were furnished to Nebraska Public Power District in 1971 or 1972 from the Anchor Valve Company plant in Hayward, California prior to the our merging of the two companies.

With regard to the licensee's determination of cause, we would question that high residual stresses due to inadequate stress relief was likely. Our experience is such that inadequate stress relief will likely result in problems shortly after being placed in service, not after twenty years. As for fatigue resulting from differential thermal expansion forces, there has been no discussions of the valves being closed with the system hot and subsequently permitted to cool down. This condition may certainly result in thermal binding with high seating stresses and most likely some difficulty in opening the valve. The original specification requirement was for the actuator to open the valve with a differential pressure of only 350 psi.

The information notice discussed local leak rate tests which were performed during which the valve failed the test. There was no pressure noted for this test; however, the original seat tests for these valves were conducted at 2200 psi. Obviously, if low pressure seat tests are important, then more attention to seating design is required. We believe this is an important message to get to all licensees, in addition to evaluating isolation valves utilized between high and low pressure systems.

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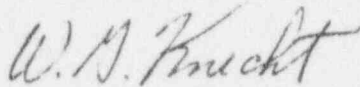
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Mr. Brian K. Grimes, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations Page 2 4/27/94

We are not aware of the means to correct an Information Notice published by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; however, we would appreciate a correction of the description of the valve as a 20 inch, 900 class, flex wedge gate valve.

Sincerely,

ANCHOR/DARLING VALVE COMPANY

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. G. Knecht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

William G. Knecht  
Technical Director

WGKjs

cc: J. J. Chappell - President, Anchor/Darling Valve Company