

SNUPPS

Standardized Nuclear Unit
Power Plant System

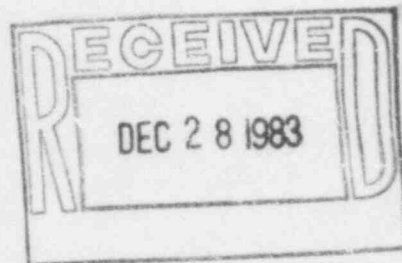
5 Choke Cherry Road
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(301) 869-8010

December 22, 1983

SLNRC 83-0064 FILE: 0491.10.2
SUBJ: Significant Deficiency Report (SDR)
83-13: Limitorque Valve Operator
Limit Switch Rotor Material

Mr. James G. Keppler
Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Mr. John T. Collins
Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Suite 1000, Parkway Central Plaza
Arlington, Texas 76012



Docket Nos. STN 50-482 and STN 50-483

Gentlemen:

This letter provides an interim report of a generic significant deficiency at the Callaway and Wolf Creek plants pursuant to the reporting requirements of 10CFR50.55(e). The deficiency involves cracks in certain limit switch rotors used in Limitorque Valve actuators which are installed in a number of safety-related systems. The limit switches are valve position switches which are used in the control of valve actuators and for indication of valve position. Preliminary telephone reports of this problem have been made to the NRC as follows:

1. Wolf Creek - November 16, 1983 telephone report from KGE (O. Maynard) to NRC Region IV (W. Johnson).
2. Callaway - November 16, 1983 telephone report from UE (Q. B. Dubois) and S. E. Shepley to NRC Region III (R. D. Walker).

Investigations have since confirmed the November 16, 1983 telecon reports that the cracked limit switch rotor problem constitutes a significant deficiency reportable to NRC per 10CFR50.55(e). Had the problem gone undetected, cracked or broken limit switches could result in the failure of certain safety-related motor-operated valves to perform their specified functions. The manufacturer, Limitorque, will be requested to consider the need to notify other nuclear utilities of the problem with these rotors and to consider reportability of these items under Part 21 regulations.

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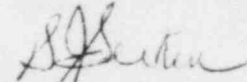
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Preliminary investigations indicate the problem may be the result of excessive shrinkage in the material used in the fabrication of the affected limit switch rotors. Representative rotor materials, Melamine and Phenolic, are under evaluation to confirm these preliminary indications. Current plans are to replace the Melamine and Phenolic rotors with rotors manufactured from Fibrite, which appears less susceptible to cracking. The Fibrite rotors proposed for replacement are currently undergoing qualification testing by Limitorque. In the interim, replacement Fibrite rotors are being provided to Wolf Creek and Callaway sites pending satisfactory qualification testing.

It is anticipated that a final report concerning the cracked rotor problem will be available within 60 days of the date of this letter. Should you have any questions in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



S. D. Seiken
Manager, Quality Assurance

RPW/dck12b2

cc: D. T. McPhee, KCPL
G. L. Koester, KGE
D. F. Schnell, UE
H. W. Roberds, USNRC/WC
J. H. Neisler, USNRC/Cal
B. H. Little, USNRC/Cal
H. M. Wescott, USNRC Region III
Richard DeYoung, Director I&E
Record