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UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

1901 GRATIOT STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

April 10, 1984

DONALD F. SCHNELL
VICE PRESIDENT

MAILING ADDRESS:
P. O. BOX 149
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63166

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

ULNRC- 793

Dear Mr. Keppler:

INTERIM 10CFR50.55(e) REPORT U-78
HALON FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS
CHEMETRON CHECK VALVE FAILURE
CALLAWAY PLANT

On March 19, 1984 Union Electric reported a potential significant deficiency in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e) regarding a Chemetron No. 1-061-0732 check valve which failed during discharge testing of a Halon Fire Protection System. As was reported, the spring seat fractured and broken parts became lodged in a selector valve during system discharge.

The possibility exists that the broken parts could have lodged in the selector valve and prevented full closure of the selector valve after discharge. Since the selector valves serve to direct the halon charge to the area experiencing a fire, incomplete closure could result in insufficient halon concentrations on subsequent discharges. The spring seats of all 64 Chemetron check valves installed have been inspected and 14 have been found to have similar defects. Union Electric has concluded that this failure is reportable as a significant deficiency in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

This failure is currently being evaluated with the vendor, and at this time it appears that valves of modified design will be provided. In the interim, defective valves will be replaced and upon completion of each test the check valve will be inspected to verify its integrity. Failure of the check valve spring seat will not have any significant adverse effect on first time discharge capability, only on subsequent discharges if loose parts would become lodged in

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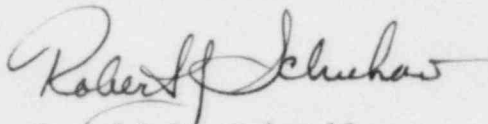
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a selector valve as described above. Until this matter is resolved, Halon Systems will be tagged with instructions to verify check valve integrity subsequent to any system discharge.

We will provide another report on this matter by May 18, 1984.

Very truly yours,


for Donald F. Schnell

PBD/jm

cc: B. L. Forney, Region III
Richard DeYoung, Director I&E
Bruce Little, NRC Resident Inspector
John Neisler, NRC Resident Inspector
Missouri Public Service Commission