

THE BABCOCK & WILCOX COMPANY  
POWER GENERATION GROUP

To L. J. Stanek, Manager, Fluid & Mechanical Systems Section

From D. A. Roy, Manager, NPGD Engineering (Ext. 2375)

SDS 443.3

Cust.

File No.  
or Ref.

Subj. Valve Availability Improvement Program

Date September 11, 1978

This letter is sent on customer and non-subject copy.

In our review of the proposed Valve Availability Improvement Program which we conducted on September 7, a number of different approaches were proposed for dealing with the valve availability problem on a more global rather than specific cause and effect basis.

In order to get a handle on this problem, I believe that we should proceed as follows:

1. Initiate action at the interdepartmental level to improve our knowledge of the failures which are occurring in the field through improved reporting and followup methods.

I have asked Frank Fahland to work with Dick Kosiba in attacking this problem at the Department level. However, your engineers who are responsible for valve problems should develop and use their own avenues for acquiring detailed knowledge of what's happening to their equipment in the field (establish appropriate on-site contacts, travel to the site when it appears that a trip will provide useful information, etc.).

2. Establish a valve categorization and failure matrix similar to that which we discussed on September 7, 1978.
3. Using the matrix developed in item 2 above, determine the essential characteristics of the valve failure problem (type, application, site, etc.) and what action is appropriate for us to take to help us meet our valve LCD goal.

It may be that an FOAK valve design project, such as that recommended in our September 7 meeting, will be appropriate; however, I have not reached that conclusion at this time. I am convinced that we need to do a little harder digging to determine the nature of our valve problems and use this information as a spring board for action. This needs to be done without delay as it is clear that our valve LCD problem is not a negligible one.

Your personal attention will be required to come up with a program that materially aids resolution of this problem.

Please let Frank Fahland and I know by Thursday, September 14, when you will be in a position to discuss a revised approach to the valve problem.

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DHR:nw

cc: F. R. Fahland

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