

February 14, 1984

SBN- 625
T.F. Q2.2.2

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Attention: Mr. Richard W. Starostecki, Director
Division of Project and Resident Programs

References: (a) Construction Permits CPPR-135 and CPPR-136, Docket
Nos. 50-443 and 50-444
(b) Telecon of January 19, 1984, A. L. Legendre (YAEC) to
Robert Gallo (NRC, Region I)

Subject: Interim 10CFR50.55(e) Report; Cracked and Broken Puffer Piston
Rods in Brown Boveri Type 5HK Breakers

Dear Sir:

On January 19, 1984, a potentially reportable 10CFR50.55(e) item was reported [Reference (b)] regarding cracked and broken puffer piston rods in Brown Boveri Type 5HK breakers used at Seabrook. The following is our interim report concerning the above subject.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFICIENCY

Puffer piston connecting rods used in Brown Boveri Electric Inc. 5HK 350, 1200/2000 ampere breakers manufactured before 1980 may develop cracks. These rods were made with the material identified as Zytel 101 (Nylon 66). Some of these rods have been found to be broken or have developed cracks in other power plants.

The breaker capability to interrupt at low current may be impaired because of a broken puffer piston rod. Also, this may necessitate reduction in the number of operations before maintenance on the breaker would be necessary.

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SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

These breakers are used in 5kV safety related circuits at Seabrook. Failure to interrupt a low current fault could effect operation of other safety-related equipment.

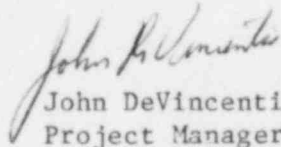
CORRECTIVE ACTION

Based on test results and other information available at this time, the manufacturer recommends that the breakers be inspected for cracked or broken puffer piston rods at normal maintenance intervals and to replace the puffer piston assembly if this condition is found.

Accordingly, all the 5HK 350 breakers at Seabrook Unit 1 will be inspected for cracked or broken puffer piston rods during the next scheduled maintenance which is planned for March 1984. The results of the inspection will determine if further action is required. It is anticipated that an additional report will be issued by May 31, 1984. 5HK breakers for Unit 2 are not affected since they were fabricated after 1980, and therefore no inspection is necessary.

This letter is being filed pursuant to interim reporting provision of 10CFR50.55(e)(3).

Very truly yours,


John DeVincentis
Project Manager

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