

March 9, 1984

SBN- 633  
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 February 16, 1984, A. L. Legendre (YAEC) to  
William Borchardt (NRC, Region I)

Subject: Interim 10CFR50.55(e) Report; Inadvertent Closure of Brown  
Boveri 5 kV Circuit Breakers

Dear Sir:

On February 10, 1984, a potentially reportable 10CFR50.55(e) item was reported [Reference (b)] regarding inadvertent closure of Brown Boveri 5 kV circuit breakers. We have reviewed this problem further and conclude that it is reportable as a 10CFR50.55(e) deficiency. The following is our interim report concerning this subject.

Description of Deficiency

During preoperational testing at the Limerick Generating Station, a Brown Boveri 5 kV circuit breaker inadvertently closed on its own following completion of spring charging. The springs are recharged after each breaker trip to provide stored energy for a complete close/trip cycle. Brown Boveri's evaluation of the problem determined that the close latch slipped because of the shock from release of the springs at the end of the spring closing cycle.

Brown Boveri determined that the problem could occur in breakers manufactured before October 1973 and between June 1975 and June 1977. Unit 1 breakers were manufactured in this time period and therefore, could be susceptible to the problem. Unit 2 breakers were manufactured after June 1977 and therefore, are not susceptible to the problem.

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Safety Implication

The postulated inadvertent closure of a 5 kV breaker could create undesirable emergency diesel generator loading if the diesels were supplying the emergency buses. Also, inadvertent closure of the diesel generator breaker to the emergency bus could cause diesel generator damage.

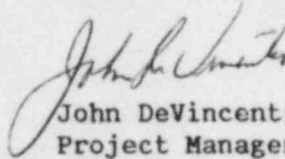
Corrective Action

Brown Boveri recommends that a close latch anti-shock spring be added to the breakers to eliminate the possibility of inadvertent closure. These springs are presently being added to the Unit 1 breakers with completion anticipated by the end of April. The Unit 2 breakers require no corrective action since they were manufactured after June 1977, and had the closing latch anti-shock spring installed by the manufacturer.

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

Very truly yours,

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY

  
John DeVincentis  
Project Manager

cc: Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Service List

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