

February 19, 1997

Mr. James E. Teague
Manager Engineering
General Electric,
Meter and Control Business Department
205 Great Valley Parkway
Malvern, PA 19355-0715

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR A TECHNICAL REVIEW OF A DRAFT INFORMATION NOTICE
REGARDING POTENTIAL ARMATURE BINDING OF IGA RELAYS

Mr. Teague:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is planning to issue an information notice to transmit GE Relay Service Advice Letter 516.1 to ensure that all licensees receive the information. We ask that you review the enclosed draft of that information notice to ensure the technical information is accurate. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. Please return any comments you may have as soon as possible. A copy of this request and your response will be placed in the Public Document Room for review by the public. Your response should be mailed to:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTN: David Skeen, NRR/PECB
MAIL STOP: 011E4

Please address any questions you may have on this matter to David Skeen of my staff. Mr. Skeen may be reached by phone (301) 415-1174 or E-mail (dls@nrc.gov). If no comments are received by close of business February 28, 1997, we will assume the technical information in the notice is correct.

[Original signed by Robert L. Dennig]
Alfred E. Chaffee, Chief
Events Assessment and
Generic Communications Branch
Division of Reactor Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Draft Information Notice

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February xx, 1997

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 97-XX: POTENTIAL ARMATURE BINDING IN GENERAL ELECTRIC
TYPE HGA RELAYS

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is issuing this information notice to alert addressees that two General Electric (GE) type HGA relays failed to reposition when the coils were deenergized. It is expected that recipients will review this information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems. However, suggestions contained in this information notice are not NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances

On May 15, 1996, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) reported that two 12HGA17S63 relays installed in the reset logic for the primary containment isolation system at its Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, failed to reposition when operators removed power to the relay coils. ComEd personnel removed the relays and disassembled them in an attempt to determine the root cause of the problem. When a root cause could not be determined, the failed relays were sent to GE Power Management (GE PM), located in Malvern, Pennsylvania, for a thorough investigation.

Discussion

GE PM reassembled the failed relay submitted by ComEd for a root cause analysis and it operated properly, both mechanically and electrically. When GE PM performed a dimensional analysis of the critical parts, however, the assembly hole of the molded contact support was found to be slightly off-center. GE PM stated that the mold that produces the contact support was reworked in 1990 to correct for mold wear and to bring the parts well within the design drawing tolerances.

GE PM issued Relay Service Advice Letter 516.1 on October 25, 1996, to alert customers that HGA relays manufactured between January 1989 and June 1991 may have marginal armature-to-contact support clearance and may be susceptible to armature binding.

However, some licensees may have procured the relays as commercial-grade, or received them as basic components from a dedicating entity. Therefore, some licensees may not have received the attached letter and, consequently, may not have had the opportunity to evaluate the information in accordance with 10 CFR 21.3.

This information notice requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact one of the technical contacts listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager.

Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical contacts: K. Naidu, NRR
(301) 415-2980
E-mail: krn@nrc.gov

S. Alexander, NRR
(301) 415-2995
E-mail: sda@nrc.gov

D. Skeen, NRR
(301) 415-1174
E-mail: dls@nrc.gov

Attachments: 1. GE Relay Service Advice Letter 516.1
2. List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices