



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 27, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File

FROM: Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter S. Tam", written over the typed name in the "FROM:" field.

SUBJECT: CATAWBA UNITS 1 AND 2 - PUTTING A DOCUMENT IN THE PUBLIC
DOCUMENT ROOM (TAC M72400, M72401)

The attached message was faxed today to Mike Kitlan of Duke Power Company.
The sole purpose of the message is to prepare Duke Power Company personnel for a
conference call. The message itself does not constitute a formal request for
information or represent a formal NRC staff position.

Docket Numbers 50-414

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Struthers-Dunn Time Delay Relay Problem

Problem: It was determined by the manufacturer that a quantity of Struthers-Dunn type 236ABX135NE, 125 volts dc, time delay relays built in 1983 had incorrect coils. These relays should have a 43 gauge coil. The defective relays are equipped with 39 gauge coils. In a normally energized application, due to prolonged energization the defective relays may overheat to the point of self-destruction.

Licensee's Requested Action: At your facility, please read date-stamp and coil-part-number stamped on the 125 volts DC powered Struthers-Dunn time delay relays. The date-code consists 4 digits. Out of which the first 2 digits indicate the year and the last 2 digits indicate the week. A date-code "8335" indicates that the relay was manufactured in the 35th week of year 1983.

If relay date-stamp indicates that relay was manufactured in the year 1983, it may be a defective relay.

If the relay was found to be manufactured in 1983, please read the Coil-part-number stamped on the relay. Coil-part-number consists of two parts separated by a dash (-). The part after a dash indicates coil gauge. Example; Coil part number 45769-39X indicates the relay has a 39 gauge coil. Coil part numbers 45769-43CX or 45770-43C indicate that the relay has a 43 gauge coil.

If any Struthers-Dunn 125 volt dc time delay relay was found to be manufactured in 1983 and its Coil-part-number indicates the coil gauge to be "39", then this is a defective relay. Please report this to your NRC project manager. Thank you.