

October 27, 2006

Documents Control Desk
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Potential non-conformance of plunger tubes used in certain NH series
Hydramotor pumps and pump kits.

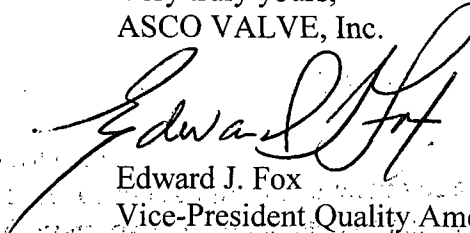
Gentlemen,

In our letter of September 15, 2006, we advised of a potential non-conformance of plunger tubes used in certain NH series Hydramotor pumps and pump kits. Enclosed is an additional copy of that letter, as well a copy of Our Important Safety Notice issued to our customers on September 18, 2006.

Several utilities have approached us, through AREVA, asking for additional explanation of the effect of the potential non-conformance on Hydramotor operation. As a result, we have issued the attached "Supplement to Important Safety Notice dated Sept. 18, 2006" to our customers. This will hopefully be of assistance to the utilities in evaluating the effect of this potential non-conformance in their application.

We are providing this document for your information and records. Should you wish to discuss this further or obtain any additional information, please let us know.

Very truly yours,
ASCO VALVE, Inc.



Edward J. Fox
Vice-President Quality Americas

IE19

Important Safety Notice

Sept 18, 2006

Subject:

Potential manufacturing non-conformance of plunger tubes used in certain ASCO NH series Hydramotor pumps and pump kits.

Problem Description

ASCO has discovered that a small number of NH series Hydramotor pumps and pump kits may have been assembled with dump valves incorporating non-conforming plunger tubes. These plunger tubes may have a dimensional deviation which may result in the dump valve not closing when energized. This may result in the inability of the pump to generate sufficient pressure to compress the spring assembly, and, depending upon whether the actuator is a push type or pull type, prevent extension or retraction of the Hydramotor output shaft.

In operation this pump is designed to allow the actuator's return spring to move the output shaft to its extended or retracted position on loss of power. The non-conforming condition noted may cause the actuator to remain in its extended or retracted position when power is applied. ASCO does not have adequate knowledge of the actual installation and operating conditions of these Hydramotor actuators to determine whether their malfunction could create a "substantial safety hazard" as defined in 10CFR21.3. We are likewise unable to conduct the evaluation necessary to make such a determination. Depending on the nature of the application, each utility should determine what affect this potential malfunction may have on their application.

What you should do

Included with this safety notice is a list of potentially affected product shipped to you. Where possible, product should be returned to ASCO for retrofit.

For product that cannot be returned, ASCO will provide, at no charge, replacement dump valves, with complete instructions, for field retrofit.

Please complete the enclosed ASCO Response Form and return it to us indicating what action you would like us to take.

If products shown on the enclosed list are no longer in your possession, but have been provided to your customers, we ask that you notify your customer(s) of this potential problem. If you wish, you can provide us with the names and addresses of your customers, along with any information that would help us identify the product to your customer, and we will contact your customers for you. This information will be used for this purpose only. Returns should be processed using ASCO's web-based RMA program (www.ascovalvenet.com). No product other than that on the enclosed list is affected.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions or need any additional information or assistance, please contact Bob Arnone at (973) 966-2262 (rarnone@ASCO.com) or Bob Royer at (973) 966-2315 (rroyer@asco.com)

Sept. 15, 2006

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Subject: Potential non-conformance of plunger tubes used in certain NH series
Hydramotor pump and pump kits.

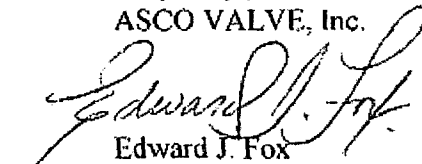
Gentlemen:

We enclose information relating to plunger tubes used in certain ASCO NH series Hydramotor pumps and pump kits. As you will see from the enclosed materials, there is the possibility of a manufacturing deficiency with these plunger tubes, which may affect the operation of the Hydramotor actuator. ASCO was alerted to this problem upon evaluation of a pump returned from Areva after they encountered operational difficulties during their testing of an ASCO Hydramotor actuator that they had refurbished in their facility. ASCO is notifying all purchasers of affected product of this potential problem and will provide refurbishment service or replacement product as required at no charge.

In operation this pump is designed to allow the actuator's return spring to move the output shaft to its extended or retracted position on loss of power, depending whether the actuator is a push type or pull type. The non-conforming condition noted may cause the actuator to remain in its extended or retracted position when power is applied. ASCO does not have adequate knowledge of the actual installation and operating conditions of these Hydramotor actuators to determine whether their malfunction could create a "substantial safety hazard" as defined in 10CFR21.3. We are likewise unable to conduct the evaluation necessary to make such a determination. Nevertheless, we furnish this information to keep you apprised of our investigation.

Should you wish to discuss this further, or obtain any additional information, please let us know. Should any additional information become available we will forward it to you.

Very truly yours,
ASCO VALVE, Inc.



Edward J. Fox
Vice-President Quality Americas

Enclosure

POTENTIAL NON-CONFORMANCE OF PLUNGER TUBES USED IN CERTAIN NH SERIES
HYDRAMOTOR PUMPS AND PUMP KITS.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INDIVIDUAL INFORMING THE COMMISSION:

Edward J. Fox
Vice-President Quality Americas
ASCO valve Inc.
50 Hanover Road
Florham Park, NJ 07932

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ITEMS SUPPLIED:

Plunger tube, part number 69190A, supplied as a component of a relief valve assembly in ASCO NH series Hydramotor pumps and pump kits.

NATURE OF THE NON-CONFORMANCE AND POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARD:

ASCO has found that there is the possibility that as many as 31 non-conforming plunger tubes may have been used in the manufacture of dump valves for use in Hydramotor pumps, manufactured and shipped from January 1, 2005 through April 21, 2006. These non-conforming plunger tubes have a dimensional deviation which may result in the dump valve not closing when energized. This may result in the inability of the pump to generate sufficient pressure to compress the spring assembly and, depending upon whether the actuator is a push type or pull type, prevent extension or retraction of the Hydramotor output shaft.

This condition was discovered upon examination of a pump returned to ASCO by AREVA, after they encountered operational difficulties during their tests of an ASCO Hydramotor actuator that they were refurbishing in their facility.

Total shipments of product incorporating plunger tube 69190A during this time period are approximately 164. Since we are unable to determine specifically which shipped units may contain the non-conforming parts, we must consider all shipped product from Jan 1 2005 through April 21, 2006 potentially affected.

THE CORRECTIVE ACTION WHICH IS BEING TAKEN:

ASCO will notify all purchasers of affected product of the potential problem. If the affected product is not in service, ASCO will offer to rework it at our factory at no charge. If the product is in service, ASCO will offer replacement relief valves at no charge with complete instructions for their installation.

Existing stock of plunger tubes was quarantined and 100% inspected and non-conforming components scrapped.

Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) review is being conducted for the Hydramotor pump. Plunger tube, P/N 69190A is under evaluation to revise process controls and inspection criteria.