

ARCING OF GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY SIZE 2 CONTACTORS

During routine preventive maintenance of a nonsafety related motor starter at Millstone Unit No. 2, the movable contacts in a General Electric Company (GE) NEMA Size 2 contactor (Part No. CR206D000EEH) were found to have been burned. Binding in the movable part of the contactor prevented a good electrical contact with the stationary contacts resulting in arc-burn damage. GE indicated the cause to be oversized copper tip support binding in the phenolic tip carrier. GE reportedly modified their tooling to correct for the manufacturing problem and inspected the contactor spare part kits in their warehouse for oversized tip supports.

The Northeast Nuclear Energy Company subsequently inspected the remaining GE NEMA Size 2 contactors installed at this facility and replaced oversized tip supports in three safety related and five other contactors.

All holders of an operating license or a construction permit should be aware that the above described GE contactor may be installed in safety related systems at their facilities and give consideration to assuring that these contactors do not have oversized tip supports which could cause poor electrical contact. You may want to also review your spare parts inventories for the plant to assure that similar contactors are not being held for use in safety related systems. Your review of this matter should consider whether corrective or preventive actions need to be implemented at your facility to alleviate the contact problems as discussed.

No written response to this Circular is required. If you require additional information regarding this matter, contact the Director of the NRC Regional Office.

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LISTING OF IE CIRCULARS ISSUED IN 1978

Circular No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued To
78-01	Loss of Well Logging Source	4/5/78	All Holders of Well Logging Source Licenses
78-02	Proper Lubricating Oil for Terry Turbines	4/20/78	All Holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permits (CP)
78-03	Packaging Greater Than Type A Quantities of Few Specific Activity Radioactive Material for Transport	5/12/78	All Holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OL), Construction Permits (CP), Fuel Cycle, Priority I Material and Waste Disposal Licenses
78-04	Installation Error That Could Prevent Closing of Fire Doors	5/15/78	All Holders of an NRC Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permits (CP)
78-05	Inadvertent Safety Injection During Cooldown	5/23/78	All Holders of a Reactor Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permits (CP)
78-06	Potential Common Mode Flooding of ECCS Equipment Rooms at BWR Facilities	5/23/78	All Holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permits (CP)
78-07	Damaged Components of a Bergen-Paterson Series 25000 Hydraulic Test Stand	5/31/78	All Holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permits (CP)
78-08	Environmental Qualification of Safety Related Equipment at Nuclear Power Plants	5/31/78	All Holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OL) or Construction Permits (CP)