

**INCORRECT LOWER DISC SPRING AND CLEARANCE DIMENSION IN SERIES 8300 AND 8302 ASCO SOLENOID VALVES**

**DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES:**

Recent abnormal occurrences have been reported at the Point Beach and Kewaunee nuclear stations in which safety related solenoid air-pilot valves manufactured by Automatic Switch Company (ASCO) failed to operate properly due to an incorrect lower disc spring and/or improper lever to lower disc stem clearance. Information contained in the reports submitted by NRC licensees and subsequent discussions between NRC and ASCO personnel have revealed the potential for similar failures with ASCO, 120 volt, 60 cycle solenoid valves of the types listed below.

Series	Form
8300-C	F, U, RF or RU
8302-C	F, U, RF or RU

According to the manufacturer, valves of the types listed above should have a heavier duty spring on the upper than on the lower disc section. These springs are identified by a specific part number and color which may differ for each valve type. Incorrect lower disc springs as well as improper clearance between the lever and lower valve disc stem have been identified as the causes of recent valve failures.

It has also been reported that incorrect valve disc springs have been included in repair kits supplied by the valve manufacturer. In case of uncertainty, licensees are advised to contact the ASCO valve service department regarding the proper disc springs and clearance for specific valve types.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY LICENSEES:**

For all power reactor facilities with operating license or construction permit:

1. Determine if ASCO valves of the types described above are in use or planned for use in safety related systems.
2. Report to this office in writing, within 30 days for facilities with operating license and within 60 days for facilities with construction permit, the results of your findings with regard to Item 1.
3. If solenoid valves of the types described are in use or planned for use in safety related systems, include in your written reply the actions you have taken, or plan to take, to prevent failures of the type described above. Your written reply should also include the date when such actions were, or will be, completed.

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