

Sept. 15, 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 pump and pump kits.

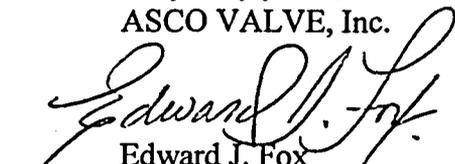
Gentlemen:

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

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

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF INDIVIDUAL INFORMING THE COMMISSION:**

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**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.