



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
631 PARK AVENUE  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

February 9, 1979

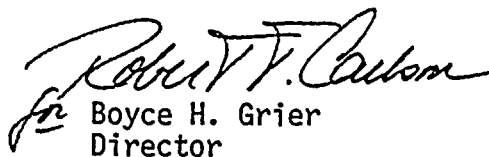
Docket No. 50-410

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. G. K. Rhode  
Vice President  
System Project Management  
300 Erie Boulevard, West  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Gentlemen:

This Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Circular or Bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have questions regarding the matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

  
for Boyce H. Grier  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 79-03
2. List of IE Information Notices  
Issued in 1979

cc w/encls:

Eugene B. Thomas, Jr., Esquire

AJD/MTA  
CCP

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SECRET

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

IE Information Notice No. 79-03  
Date: February 9, 1979  
Page 1 of 1.

LIMITORQUE VALVE GEARED LIMIT SWITCH LUBRICANT

Description of Circumstances:

At Commonwealth Edison reactors excessive failure rates of the Limitorque valve geared limit switches were being experienced. Investigation revealed that the failure mode was a drying out and hardening of the Beacon 325 lubricant. Once hardening takes place, the brass gears within the limit switch become immobile and destroy themselves when an attempt is made to operate the valve.

The Limitorque Corporation has recommended Mobilgrease 28 as a replacement grease for switch applications where the temperature exceeds 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Tests conducted by Mobil and Limitorque Corporation indicate that Mobilgrease 28, in addition to having a superior temperature rating, will satisfy the same environmental conditions and meet the same qualification parameters as Beacon 325.

All licensee and construction permit holders should consider conducting a review to determine if Beacon 325 lubricant is being used in geared limit switches in environments conducive to drying out and subsequent hardening of the lubricant.

If conditions are found to be conducive to failures, consideration should be given to replacing the grease with a more suitable grease.

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Enclosure:  
List of IE Information Notices  
Issued in 1979



LISTING OF IE INFORMATION NOTICES  
ISSUED IN 1979

| Information<br>Notice No. | Subject  | Date<br>Issued | Issued To   |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|---|
| 79-01                     | Bergen-Paterson Hydraulic<br>Shock and Sway Arrestor | 2/2/79         | All power reactor<br>facilities with an<br>Operating License<br>(OL) or a Construction<br>Permit (CP) |
| 79-02                     | Attempted Extortion -<br>Low Enriched Uranium        | 2/2/79         | All Fuel Facilities   |



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