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CURTIS,N.W. Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.
RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
GRIER,B.H. Region 1, Philadelphia, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: Interim deficiency rept re GE HFA relays which have coils wound on Lexan spools,initially reported on 810206,Cause not yet specifically determined,Addl info by June 1981.

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PP&L

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April 3, 1981

Mr. Boyce H. Grier
Director, Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
INTERIM REPORT OF A DEFICIENCY RELATING TO
GE HFA RELAYS
ER's 100450/100508 FILES 840-4/821-10
PLA-708

Dear Mr. Grier:

This letter serves to provide the Commission with an interim report of a deficiency involving General Electric HFA relays. The deficiency was originally reported by telephone to NRC Region I Representative, Mr. R. T. Carlson, by Mr. A. R. Sabol of PP&L on February 6, 1981. During that conversation, Mr. Carlson was advised that the condition was being evaluated for reportability under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55(e).

The deficiency involves GE HFA relays which have coils wound on Lexan spools. These Lexan spools are susceptible to cracking. The problem was the subject of NRC Information Notice #81-01.

The condition has been identified by PP&L on NCR #81-083 for Unit 1 and by Bechtel on NCR #7138 for Unit 2. The condition has since been determined to be reportable under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55(e) and this report is submitted pursuant thereto.

GE has conducted an inspection of HFA relays in Unit 2 panels under their scope of supply. The inspection was performed in accordance with GE FDI MDEP. The inspection resulted in discovery of 16 broken and 65 cracked coils out of the 358 checked.

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The cause of the deficiency has not yet been specifically determined. PP&L has requested GE to evaluate the cause of this deficiency and whether the cracking is affected by vibration, age or relay utilization (normally energized or deenergized) and if hydrocarbons may have an influence on the problem.

In analyzing the safety implications of the coil spool breakage, the results of the GE inspection conducted under FDI MDEP were evaluated. PP&L has concluded that these relays are used in safety applications such as the Reactor Protection, High Pressure Coolant Injection and Nuclear Steam Supply Shutdown Systems. The failure of one of these relays is considered a significant construction deficiency that could prevent a system from performing its intended safety function.

PP&L has since directed 100% inspections of the remaining GE HFA relays outside the scope of the original GE inspection. All relays with cracked or broken coil spools discovered in Class IE systems will be replaced. In non-class IE systems, only the coils with cracked or broken spools will be replaced. The need for alternative or additional corrective action will be evaluated upon receipt of information regarding cause determination and GE aging test results.

Since replacement relays will not be available until July, 1981, we expect to complete our inspection program for Unit 1 shortly thereafter. The inspection and replacement process for both units will be controlled through appropriate instructions and quality checks.

Since the details of this report provide information relevant to the reporting requirements of 10 CFR 21, this correspondence is considered to also discharge any formal responsibility PP&L may have in compliance thereto.

We expect to provide additional information on this deficiency in June, 1981. We trust the Commission will find this report to be acceptable.

Very truly yours,

N. W. Curtis
Vice President-Engineering & Construction-Nuclear

FLW:sab

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