

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

IE Information Notice No. 79-05
Date: March 21, 1979
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USE OF IMPROPER MATERIALS IN SAFETY-RELATED COMPONENTS

Two instances of the addition of improper materials to safety-related components during maintenance have recently been identified by NRC inspections.

Materials on Valve Seating Surfaces

An NRC inspector found that maintenance personnel at the Surry nuclear power plant had added wax or grease to certain valve seating surfaces. These valves included the containment spray and recirculation spray isolation valves. This material could have affected the measured leak rate through these containment penetrations. VEPCO personnel said that the material was believed to have been added to prevent damage to the valve seating surfaces during dry valve testing. It had not been removed following completion of the maintenance procedure. VEPCO personnel also reported that a lack of any definitive administrative guidance as to what lubricants, if any, could be used during valve maintenance, contributed to this problem. The corrective action included modification of the procedures to include more precise inspection by quality control personnel following valve maintenance.

Grease in Snubbers

An NRC inspector found that maintenance personnel at the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant had added grease to the hydraulic fluid reservoirs of eight Bergen-Paterson snubbers. The grease had mistakenly been added, during a scheduled lubrication procedure, through the alemite type fittings used for normal fluid addition. A similar error involving thirteen snubbers had previously been made at this facility. At that time the decision had been made to install a different type of fitting on the snubbers. However, the replacement parts had not arrived in time for installation prior to the more recent lubrication. At the time of the earlier occurrence, TVA personnel had removed the affected snubbers and tested them for lock-up and bleed rate. The results had been within specification. Nevertheless, the untested snubbers were reinstalled prior to reinstallation. NRC inspectors found that one of the later set of greased snubbers had one cubic inch of grease was found in

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
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March 12, 1979

Docket Nos. 50-289
50-320

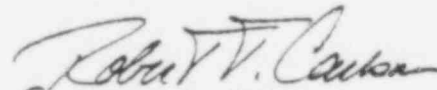
Metropolitan Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. J. G. Herbein
Vice President - Generation
P. O. Box 542
Reading, Pennsylvania 19640

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Bulletin No. 79-03, which requires action by you with regard to your power reactor facility(ies) with an operating license or a construction permit. A written response is required.

Should you have any questions regarding this Bulletin or the actions required by you, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Bulletin No. 79-03
2. List of IE Bulletins
Issued in Last
Twelve Months

cc w/encls:

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