

July 13, 1978

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LTRS. ADDRESSED TO LICENSEES  
(ALL B&W PLANTS IN ORB#4:DOR)

Gentlemen:

RE:

We have recently sent the enclosed letter to Babcock & Wilcox Company regarding the potential for excessive control rod guide tube wear at facilities using the B&W design. This information is required to assess the significance of control rod guide tube wear at your facility.

We requested the required information from the vendor, in order to provide us with an overall assessment of this problem and to minimize the amount of utility, vendor and NRC staff work required. However, should this approach to obtain the necessary information not be successful, a direct response to the enclosed questions, from each licensee utilizing the B&W design, will be required.

We request your cooperation with B&W in generating and analyzing the control rod guide tube wear data necessary to address this concern.

Sincerely,

*Handwritten initials*

Brian K. Grimes, Assistant Director  
for Engineering & Projects  
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:  
Letter to B&W dated  
June 13, 1978

ORB#4:DOR  
1489 132  
GZwetzig

7/12/78 *Handwritten initials*

*Handwritten initials*

OFFICE	ORB#4:DOR	ORB#4:DOR	ORB#4:DOR	ORB#4:DOR	C-ORB#4:DOR	AD-ORP-DOR
SURNAME	<i>MLONGER</i>	GVissing	CNelson	MFairtile	RReid	BGrimes
DATE	7/12/78	7/12/78	7/12/78	7/12/78	7/12/78	7/13/78

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Metropolitan Edison Company

cc: G. F. Trowbridge, Esquire  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge  
1800 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

GPU Service Corporation  
Richard W. Heward, Project Manager  
Mr. T. Gary Broughton, Safety and  
Licensing Manager  
260 Cherry Hill Road  
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Pennsylvania Electric Company  
Mr. R. W. Conrad  
Vice President, Generation  
1001 Broad Street  
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15907

Miss Mary V. Southard, Chairman  
Citizens for a Safe Environment  
P. O. Box 405  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

June 13, 1978

Babcock & Wilcox Company  
ATTN: Mr. James H. Taylor  
Manager, Licensing  
Nuclear Power Generation Division  
P. O. Box 1260  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24505

Gentlemen:

Significant wear has been found in control rod guide tubes at the Combustion Engineering (CE) NSSS facilities. The guide tube wear has been primarily located at the axial location where the control rod is "parked" in the fully withdrawn position during normal operation. CE postulates that the wear is caused by a flow induced vibration of the Inconel control rod against the softer Zircaloy guide tube. Corrective actions, including increased operability surveillance, step insertion of control rods and extensive sleeving of both new and irradiated guide tubes, have been taken at all affected CE facilities.

We realize that your NSSS design is different from the CE system, however, we believe that a similar wear problem could exist at facilities using your NSSS design. You are requested to provide the enclosed additional information for all B&W facilities with operating licenses within 60 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian K. Grimes".

Brian K. Grimes, Assistant Director  
for Engineering & Projects  
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:  
Request for Additional  
Information

1489 134