



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V
1990 N. CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD
SUITE 202, WALNUT CREEK PLAZA
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

JDR

November 16, 1979

Docket Nos. 50-133, 50-275
50-323

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street
San Francisco, California 94106

Attention: Mr. Philip A. Crane, Jr.
Assistant General Counsel

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 79-22 is forwarded to you for information. No written response is required. Should you have any questions related to your understanding of this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

A. E. Book

for R. H. Engelken
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Circular No. 79-22
2. Recently Issued IE Circulars

cc w/enclosures:

W. Bair, PG&E
W. Raymond, PG&E
R. Ramsay, PG&E, Diablo Canyon
E. Weeks, PG&E, Humboldt Bay
J. Worthington, PG&E

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SSINS: 6830
Accession No.:
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 16, 1979

IE Circular No. 79-22

STROKE TIMES FOR POWER OPERATED RELIEF VALVES

Description of Circumstances:

Most PWRs utilize power-operated relief valves (PORVs) to prevent overpressurization of the reactor coolant system when the reactor is at low temperature. On April 13, during a pressure transient at Robinson 2, the PORVs did not function as rapidly as intended. The estimated stroke time for the PORVs was three to five seconds whereas the intended stroke time is two seconds. As a result, the pressure transient did approach a pressure limit which is based on nil ductility considerations. Prior to April 13, the PORVs had not been used or exercised since February, 1978, when they had been repacked and stroked. Although the valve stems were scored at that time, stroke times were satisfactory. The licensee and the valve manufacturer believe that the scored stems and the 14-month interval without exercise resulted in poor performance of the PORVs.

Recommended Actions for Licensees' Consideration:

All holders of PWR operating licenses or construction permits should be aware of the potential problem of the type discussed above. Because of the generic implications in this matter, it is recommended that both licensees of operating facilities and holders of construction permits conduct a review to determine if periodic surveillance of PORVs is necessary to assure that the PORVs will perform as intended.

No written response to this Circular is required. If you require additional information regarding these matters, contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

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RECENTLY ISSUED
IE CIRCULARS

Circular No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
79-21	Prevention of Unplanned Releases of Radioactivity	10/19/79	All holders of Power Reactor OLs and CPs
79-20	Failure Of GTE Sylvania Relay Type PM Bulletin 7305, Catalog 5U12-11-AC With A 120V AC Coil	9/24/79	All utilities having a CP
79-19	Loose Locking Devices on Ingersoll-Rand Pumps	9/13/79	All Power Reactor Operating facilities and all utilities having a CP
79-18	Proper Installation of Target Rock Safety-Relief Valves	9/10/79	All Holders of a Power Reactor OL or CP
79-17	Contact Problem in SB-12 Switches on General Electric Company Metalclad Circuit Breakers	8/14/79	All Power Reactor Licensees with a CP and/or OL
79-16	Excessive Radiation Exposures To Members Of The General Public And A Radiographer	8/16/79	All Radiography Licensees
79-15	Bursting of High Pressure Hose and Malfunction of Relief Valve "O" Ring in Certain Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	8/8/79	All Materials Priority I, Fuel Cycle and Operating Power Reactor Licensees
79-14	Unauthorized Procurement and Distribution of XE-133	7/13/79	All Medical Licensees except Teletherapy Medical Licensees and to all Radiopharmaceutical Suppliers