



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION III  
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD  
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

*epds*

Docket No. 50-367

Northern Indiana Public Service  
Company  
ATTN: Mr. Eugene M. Shorb  
Senior Vice President  
5265 Hohman Avenue  
Hammond, IN 46325

NOV 16 1979

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,

*James G. Keppler*  
for James G. Keppler  
Director

Enclosure: IE Circular  
No. 79-22

cc w/encl:  
Central Files  
Director, NRR/DPM  
Director, NRR/DOR  
PDR  
Local PDR  
NSIC  
TIC  
Mr. Dean Hansell, Office of  
Assistant Attorney General

1498 095

Q 7912050 140

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.

Enclosure: Recently  
Issued IE Circulars

1498 096

IE Circular No. 79-22  
November 16, 1979

Enclosure

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

1498 097