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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
631 PARK AVENUE  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

Docket No. 50-485

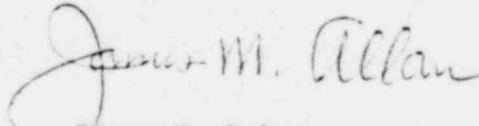
DEC 21 1979

Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. J. E. Arthur  
Chief Engineer  
89 East Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14649

Gentlemen:

This Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. However we anticipate that further NRC evaluations will result in issuance of an IE Circular or Bulletin in the near future which will recommend or request specific applicant or licensee action. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

  
Boyce H. Grier  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 79-33
2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

CONTACT: D. L. Capton  
(215-337-5264)

cc w/encls:

C. R. Anderson, Manager, QA  
Lex K. Larson, Esquire  
N. A. Petrick, Executive Director, SNUPPS  
Gerald Charnoff, Esquire

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ENCLOSURE 1

DUPLICATE

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

SSINS No.: 6870  
Accession No.:

7910250520

IE Information Notice No. 79-33  
Date: December 21, 1979  
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IMPROPER CLOSURE OF PRIMARY CONTAINMENT EQUIPMENT ACCESS HATCHES

Description of Circumstances:

On December 8, 1979 difficulty was experienced in establishing the required nitrogen pressure in primary containment during power range startup testing of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 3, following a refueling outage. On December 9, 1979, the licensee found three loose bolts on an equipment hatch to be the cause of leakage from the primary containment. The leakage was calculated to have been ten times the allowable containment leakage rate. This hatch had previously passed a local leak rate test (LLRT) and an integrated leak rate test of the containment in November 1979. The reactor had returned to operation on December 6, 1979 from the refueling outage and had operated at power levels less than 25 percent since December 6, 1979.

A subsequent inspection by the licensee of both primary containment equipment access hatches for Unit 2 was performed. TVA reported on December 20, 1979, to the NRC that they had found six of twelve closing dogs on one hatch improperly aligned and one closing bolt not torqued. A LLRT, performed with the hatch in this condition, showed a leakage rate higher than normal but within Technical Specification limits. The second hatch on this unit was found to have eight of twelve closing dogs improperly aligned.

The licensee is in the process of inspecting the closure of both primary containment equipment access hatches on Unit 1 and is reinspecting these hatches on Unit 3.

It is anticipated that further NRC evaluation will result in issuance of an IE Circular or Bulletin in the near future which will recommend or request specific applicant or licensee actions.

This information is provided to inform licensees of a possibly significant matter. The improper closure of the primary containment access hatches resulted from a lack of procedures for torque values, sequence of torque, and alignment of the closing dogs. We expect that recipients will review the adequacy of their procedures for access hatch installation at all facilities. If installation procedures do not exist or are inadequate, inspection and local leak rate testing can be used to confirm containment penetration integrity. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

No written response to this Information Notice is required.

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ENCLOSURE 2

IE Information Notice No. 79-33

Date: December 21, 1979

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RECENTLY ISSUED IE INFORMATION NOTICES

| Information Notice No. | Subject   | Date Issued | Issued to   |
|------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| 79-24                  | Overpressurization of Containment of a PWR Plant After a Main Steam Line Break    | 10/1/79     | All Power Reactor Facilities with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP) |
| 79-25                  | Reactor Trips at Turkey Point Unit 3 and 4  | 10/1/79     | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP   |
| 79-26                  | Breach of Containment Integrity   | 11/5/79     | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP   |
| 79-12A                 | Attempted Damage to New Fuel Assemblies   | 11/9/79     | All Fuel Facilities, Research Reactors and Power Reactors with an OL or CP              |
| 79-27                  | Steam Generator Tube Ruptures at Two PWR Facilities                               | 11/16/79    | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP   |
| 79-28                  | Overloading of Structural Elements Due to Pipe Support Loads                      | 11/16/79    | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP   |
| 79-29                  | Loss of Nonsafety Related Reactor Coolant System Instrumentation During Operation | 11/19/79    | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP   |
| 79-30                  | Reporting of Defects and Noncompliances, 10 CFR Part 21                           | 12/6/79     | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP   |
| 79-31                  | Use of Incorrect Amplified Response Spectra (ARS)                                 | 12/13/79    | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP   |
| 79-32                  | Separation of Electrical Cables for HPCI and ADS                                  | 12/21/79    | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP   |

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