



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

TIC

Docket No. 50-483  
Docket No. 50-486

JUN 26 1979

Union Electric Company  
ATTN: Mr. John K. Bryan  
Vice President - Nuclear  
P. O. Box 149  
St. Louis, MO 63166

Gentlemen:

This Circular 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. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,

*Gene W. Roy*  
for James G. Keppler  
Director

Enclosure: IE Circular  
No. 79-10

cc w/encl:  
Mr. W. H. Weber, Manager,  
Nuclear Construction  
Central Files  
Director, NRR/DPM  
Director, NRR/DOR  
PDR  
Local PDR  
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Region I & IV  
Ms. K. Drey  
Hon. C. J. Frass, Chairman  
Missouri Public Service  
Commission

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

June 26, 1979

IE Circular No. 79-10  
(7906200171)

PIPEFITTINGS MANUFACTURED FROM UNACCEPTABLE MATERIAL

Description of Circumstances:

Liberty Equipment and Supply Company of Kennewick, Washington and Tube Turns Division, Chemetron Corporation of Louisville, Kentucky reported on April 4 and 12, 1972, respectively, that potentially defective pipe fittings were manufactured from material with a high carbon content beyond the range allowed by ASTM A-234 WPB. These high carbon content fittings may crack when welded.

Tube Turns received 3.500 OD x .250W pipe from U. S. Steel - Lorain - identified as U. S. Steel Heat No. N570028. A total of 28,153 feet was received and identified by Tube Turns as Lot W6719. U. S. Steel has not been able to determine the exact number of lengths of pipe of incorrect chemistry, but indicated it could be at least four lengths. From this pipe, 4" - 90 degrees and 45 degrees - .237 wall elbows and 2" - .237 wall straight tees, ASTM A-234 WPB, were produced by Tube Turns. Each length of pipe is twenty feet and makes from 20 to 30 fittings. Approximately 27,000 fittings were produced and each is identified by Tube Turns Lot No. W6719. Shipment of these fittings started in March of 1978, and it is estimated all were shipped before the end of 1978.

On May 10, 1979, the Tube Turns Division reported to the NRC that 4" elbows, Lot W6719, have been provided to the nuclear power plants listed below. U.S. Steel has tested about one hundred and fifty (150) loose and installed fittings at the seven sites noted by an asterisk.

*Grand Gulf	*Zimmer	*Phipps Bend	*Waterford III
*Brown's Ferry	Midland	Limerick	
Shoreham	*LaSalle	Sequoyah	
*Brunswick	Hartsville	Bellefonte	

On June 1, 1979, the Tube Turns Division reported to the NRC via telephone that of the 160 fittings tested at Nuclear Power Plants, three (3) pieces were found to have a high carbon content and were replaced.

All construction permit holders are advised to conduct a review of their pipefitting receiving documents for the pipefitting and determine if fittings manufactured by Chemetron and identified as Tube Turn Lot W6719. If such fittings were received, appropriate corrective action should be taken.

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

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