



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

MAY 7 1979


In Reply Refer To:
RII:JPO
50-437

Offshore Power Systems
Attn: Mr. A. P. Zechella, President
8000 Arlington Expressway
P. O. Box 8000
Jacksonville, Florida 32211

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. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Circular or 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,


James P. O'Reilly
Director

Enclosure:

1. IE Information Notice
No. 79-11
2. Draft Transmittal Letter

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

May 7, 1979

IE Information Notice No. 79-11

LOWER REACTOR VESSEL HEAD INSULATION SUPPORT PROBLEM

Virginia Electric and Power Company, North Anna Power Station No. 1 reported on November 8, 1978, a field modification pertaining to the lower vessel head insulation support system which was not seismically analyzed at the time of modification. A subsequent stress analysis indicated that the ASME Code allowable stress and the yield stress for the operating base earthquake (OBE) on some of the instrument guide tubes were exceeded.

For the North Anna No. 1 field modification, the lower vessel head insulation was supported by angle brackets that are clamped onto the gridwork to about 20 of the 53 instrument guide tubes. This additional load on the guide tubes was not considered in the original stress analysis.

The maximum stress occurs in the socket welds between the Thimble guide tubes and the Instrumentation nozzles that penetrate the vessel. The maximum stress was about 70 percent of the ultimate and, therefore, violation of the pressure boundary would not be expected.

VEPCO plans to modify the supporting arrangement by building a framework underneath the insulation, which will take the loading off the guide tubes.

All holders of operating licenses and/or construction permits should be aware of the potential problem of exceeding the allowable stress and the yield stress for OBE.

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No written response to this information notice is required.

LISTING OF IE INFORMATION NOTICES
ISSUED IN 1979

| Information Notice No. | Subject | Date Issued | Issued To |
|------------------------|--|-------------|---|
| 79-01 | Bergen-Paterson Hydraulic Shock and Sway Arrestor | 2/2/79 | All power reactor facilities with an OL or a CP |
| 79-02 | Attempted Extortion - Low Enriched Uranium | 2/2/79 | All Fuel Facilities |
| 79-03 | Limitorque Valve Gears Limit Switch Lubricant | 2/9/79 | All power reactor facilities with an OL or a CP |
| 79-04 | Degradation of Engineered Safety Features | 2/16/79 | All power reactor facilities with an OL or a CP |
| 79-05 | Use of Improper Materials in Safety-Related Components | 3/21/79 | All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-06 | Stress Analysis of Safety-Related Piping | 3/23/79 | All Holders of Reactor OL or CP |
| 79-07 | Rupture of Radwaste Tanks | 3/26/79 | All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-08 | Interconnection of Contaminated Systems with Service Air Systems Used As the Source of Breathing Air | 3/28/79 | All power reactor facilities with an OL and Pu Processing fuel facilities |
| 79-09 | Spill of Radioactively Contaminated Resin | 3/30/79 | All power reactor facilities with an OL |
| 79-10 | Nonconforming Pipe Support Struts | 4/16/79 | All power reactor facilities with a CP |