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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
101 MARIETTA ST., N.W., SUITE 3100  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

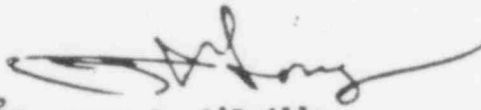
In Reply Refer To:  
RII:JPO  
70-1151

Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
Attn: Mr. M. D'Amore  
Manager, Columbia Plant  
Nuclear Fuel Division  
Drawer R  
Columbia, South Carolina 29205

Gentlemen:

The enclosed Circular 79-15, is forwarded to you for information.  
If there are any questions related to your understanding of the suggested  
actions, please notify NIOSH at the telephone number listed in the enclosure  
to this Circular.

Sincerely,

  
for James P. O'Reilly  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Circular No. 79-15
2. Listing of IE Circulars  
Issued in the Last  
Six Months

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

August 8, 1979

IE Circular No. 79-15

BURSTING OF HIGH PRESSURE HOSE AND MALFUNCTION OF RELIEF VALVE AND "O"-RING  
IN CERTAIN SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

Description of Circumstances:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been informed by mailgram (copy enclosed) from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of occurrences of bursting of the high-pressure hose assembly, and malfunction of the relief valve and of the "O"-Ring in the main line assembly of the SurvivAir Mark I self-contained breathing apparatus. Any one of these failures would result in immediate loss of air supply to a user.

Licensees who use the SurvivAir Mark I SCBA should:

1. Discontinue use of the apparatus until the units have been inspected by the manufacturer and all necessary repairs or replacements have been made.
2. Contact the manufacturer or supplier of the equipment for instructions on arranging for inspection and repair.

No written response to this circular is required. If you require additional information regarding this subject, please contact the office specified in the enclosed mailgram.

Enclosure:  
Mailgram

MAILGRAM  
RESPIRATOR USERS WARNING

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) advises workers to discontinue using the SurvivAir Mark I self-contained breathing apparatus until the units have been inspected by the manufacturer and all necessary repairs or replacements have been made.

NIOSH has learned that the high pressure hose assembly installed by the manufacturer in some of these respirators is not the assembly originally tested and approved by NIOSH for this respirator. In addition, reports from two fire departments indicate the following serious malfunctions have occurred recently during use:

1. Bursting of the high pressure hose assembly (part no. 960627).
2. Malfunction of the relief valve (part no. 912520).
3. Malfunction of the O-ring in the main line assembly (part no. 824193).

Any one of these failures would result in immediate loss of air supply to the user.

In response to a NIOSH request, SurvivAir has agreed to discontinue sale and distribution of the respirators until all three problems are corrected. When NIOSH has determined that the three problems have been corrected, you will be advised that the stop sales request has been withdrawn.

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