



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

72RA  
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June 26, 1979

Docket Nos. 50-245  
50-336  
50-423

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company  
ATTN: Mr. W. G. Council  
Vice President - Nuclear  
Engineering and Operations  
P. O. Box 270  
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular 79-10 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 this office.

Sincerely,

*James M. Allan*  
Boyce H. Grier  
for Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Circular No. 79-10
2. List of IE Circulars Issued  
in Last Twelve Months

cc w/encls:

- J. F. Opeka, Station Superintendent
- D. G. Diedrick, Manager of Quality Assurance
- J. R. Himmelwright, Licensing Safeguards Engineer
- K. W. Gray, Construction Quality Assurance Lead
- H. R. Nims, Director of Nuclear Projects
- A. Z. Ruisman, Natural Resources Defense Council

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ENCLOSURE 1

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

IE Circular No. 79-10  
Date: June 26, 1979  
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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, 1979, 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	298 128

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 that a review of their pipefitting receiving documents for and determine if fittings manufactured and identified as Tube Turn Lot W6719. If these documents were received, appropriate corrective

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously entered into system under:

ANO 7907020171

No. of pages: 5

Docket No. 70-27  
License No. SNM-42  
MPP-1

ENCLOSURE

- 9.4.5 Notwithstanding the requirement of Paragraph 2.1.2.1, Section IV, Revision 2 of the licensee's Physical Protection Plan, which prohibits any obstructions within the defined isolation zone, the licensee is authorized to install and maintain a guard station at the location described in his letter of April 12, 1979 and the attachment thereto. The licensee shall continue to provide the necessary measures to assure compliance with the monitoring and response requirements of 10 CFR Part 73.50(b)(4). This exception shall expire on December 31, 1979 or upon termination of the construction project described in the licensee's letter of June 21, 1978, whichever comes first.

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