



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

DERA
IE BA

June 22, 1979

Docket No. 40-03392

Allied Chemical Corporation
Nuclear Chemical Corporation
P. O. Box 8005 R
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Gentlemen:

The enclosed Circular 79-09, is forwarded to you for information. If there are any questions related to your understanding of the suggested actions, please notify the contact listed in the attachment to the circular.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Carlson
for Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosure:

1. IE Circular No. 79-09
2. List of IE Circulars Issued
in 1979

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ENCLOSURE 1

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

IE Circular No. 79-09
Date: June 22, 1979
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OCCURRENCES OF SPLIT OR PUNCTURED REGULATOR DIAPHRAGMS 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 the high rate of regulator diaphragm failures in the Scott Air Pak II/IIA and Presur-Pak II/IIA self-contained breathing apparatus. The failures, ranging from pinholes in the diaphragm to complete diaphragm rupture, have been identified in about 10 percent of the units by the NIOSH field survey. Tests of the Scott apparatus by NIOSH showed reduced respiratory protection in the Demand-Mode and a loss of service time (but no loss of protection) in the Pressure Demand-Mode.

Notice to Licensees:

Many major licensees use the types of Scott apparatus described above. Users of the devices should take the following action:

1. Establish a program for examination of the described respiratory devices in accordance with the attached NIOSH mailgram; or
2. Incorporate the provisions of the NIOSH mailgram into your current program for inspection of the described devices.

No written response to this Circular is required. If you require additional information regarding this subject, please contact the individual specified in the attached mailgram.

Attachment:
MAILGRAM

363 319

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT
Entire document previously entered
into system under:
ANO 7906290237
No. of pages: 6