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

Docket No. 50-271

DEC 27 1979

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Robert H. Groce
Licensing Engineer
20 Turnpike Road
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

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 this office.

Sincerely,

James M. Allan
Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

- 1. IE Information Notice No. 79-34
- 2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

CONTACT: L. E. Tripp
(215-337-5282)

cc w/encls:
W. F. Conway, Plant Superintendent
Ms. J. Abbey, Technical Secretary

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ENCLOSURE 1

DUPLICATE

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

SSINS No.: 6870
Accession No.:
7910250517

IE Information Notice No. 79-34
Date: December 27, 1979
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INADEQUATE DESIGN OF SAFETY-RELATED HEAT EXCHANGERS

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted an initial 50.55(e) report on October 25, 1979, that identified defects in the four Containment Spray (CS) heat exchangers at the Sequoyah facility.

The heat exchanger tube bundles were damaged by excessive vibrations of the tubes against each other. These vibrations were caused by a support arrangement that allows excessive unsupported tube lengths. The large amplitude tube vibration has resulted in reductions in wall thickness and some tube leakage. The CS heat exchangers at Sequoyah had only been in operation for a short period of time prior to the failure being detected.

These heat exchangers were manufactured by Industrial Process Engineers, Inc., (IPE), a vendor now out of business. The Component Cooling Water (CCW) heat exchangers at the Sequoyah facility were also made by IPE. TVA has identified some reduction in wall thickness and minor tube leakage in the CCW heat exchangers. The licensee plans to plug the damaged tubes on the CS heat exchangers and "stake" (support) the tube bundles to prevent further damage. Further corrective action is under review by the licensee. The following data applies to the CS heat exchangers:

Manufacturer: Industrial Process Engineers, Inc.
Type: CFU (Special)
Size: 55-342
Serials: 6662-1; 6662-2
6663-1; 6663-2

This Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter that is still under review by the NRC staff. 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 NRC evaluations so indicate, further licensee actions may be requested or required.

No written response to this Information Notice is required. If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

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ENCLOSURE 2

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RECENTLY ISSUED IE INFORMATION NOTICES

| Information Notice No. | Subject | Date Issued | Issued to |
|------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| 79-25 | Reactor Trips at Turkey Point Unit 3 and 4 | 10/1/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP) |
| 79-26 | Breach of Containment Integrity | 11/5/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-12A | Attempted Damage to New Fuel Assemblies | 11/9/79 | All Fuel Facilities, Research Reactors and Power Reactors with an OL or CP |
| 79-27 | Steam Generator Tube Ruptures at Two PWR Facilities | 11/16/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-28 | Overloading of Structural Elements Due to Pipe Support Loads | 11/16/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-29 | Loss of Nonsafety Related Reactor Coolant System Instrumentation During Operation | 11/19/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-30 | Reporting of Defects and Noncompliances, 10 CFR Part 21 | 12/6/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-31 | Use of Incorrect Amplified Response Spectra (ARS) | 12/13/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-32 | Separation of Electrical Cables for HPCI and ADS | 12/21/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP |
| 79-33 | Improper Closure of Primary Containment Access Hatches | 12/21/79 | All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP |