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FEBRUARY 6, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: B. H. Grier, Director, Region I
J. P. O'Reilly, Director, Region II
J. G. Keppler, Director, Region III
K. V. Seyfrit, Director, Region IV
R. H. Engelken, Director, Region V

FROM: N. C. Moseley, Director, ROI:IE

SUBJECT: IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 79-03, LIMITORQUE VALVE GEARED LIMIT SWITCH LUBRICANT

The subject Information Notice is transmitted for issuance on February 9, 1979. The Information Notice should be issued to all power reactor facilities with an operating license or a construction permit. Also enclosed is a draft copy of the transmittal letter for this purpose.

The subject document was changed to an Information Notice from the proposed draft Circular transmitted to you for comment. The change was made in response to comments on the proposed Circular. No inspection followup is necessary since this issuance is for information only.

Norman C. Moseley, Director
Division of Reactor Operations
Inspection
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosures:
1. IE Information Notice No. 79-03
2. Draft Transmittal Letter

CONTACT:
C. J. DeBevec, IE
49-28180

7902150 354

~~7902130 647~~

SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCES

OFFICE	ROI:IE	ROI:IE	RCI:IE	ROI:IE	XOOS:IE	
SURNAME	CJDeBevec	ELJordan	HDThornburg	NCMoseley	SEBryan	
DATE	2/ /79	2/ /79	2/ /79	2/ /79	2/ /79	

WPU/1nu 2/2/79

(Draft letter to all power reactor facilities with an operating license or a construction permit)

IE Information Notice No. 79-03

Addressee:

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 the matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Signature
(Regional Director)

Enclosures:
1. IE Information Notice No. 79-03
2. List of IE Information Notices
   Issued in 1979

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

February 9, 1979

IE Information Notice No. 79-03

LIMITORQUE VALVE GEARED LIMIT SWITCH LUBRICANT

Description of Circumstances:

At Commonwealth Edison reactors excessive failure rates of the Limitorque valve geared limit switches were being experienced. Investigation revealed that the failure mode was a drying out and hardening of the Beacon 325 lubricant. Once hardening takes place, the brass gears within the limit switch become immobile and destroy themselves when an attempt is made to operate the valve.

The Limitorque Corporation has recommended Mobilgrease 28 as a replacement grease for switch applications where the temperature exceeds 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Tests conducted by Mobil and Limitorque Corporation indicate that Mobilgrease 28, in addition to having a superior temperature rating, will satisfy the same environmental conditions and meet the same qualification parameters as Beacon 325.

All licensee and construction permit holders should consider conducting a review to determine if Beacon 325 lubricant is being used in geared limit switches in environments conducive to drying out and subsequent hardening of the lubricant.

If conditions are found to be conducive to failures, consideration should be given to replacing the grease with a more suitable grease.

This information 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.

Enclosure:
List of IE Information Notices
Issued in 1979

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IE Information Notice No. 79-03
February 9, 1979

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