

Nebraska Public Power District

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
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February 21, 1979

Director, Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Reference: IE Bulletin No. 79-01

Dear Sir:

The reference bulletin specified action to be taken by licensees concerning environmental qualification of Class 1E equipment. Item 2 of the bulletin required a determination if certain listed types of stem mounted limit switches are being used on safety-related valves located inside containment. Item 4 of the bulletin requires that items not meeting qualification requirements for service intended also be reported.

Although we do not have any switches inside containment of the models listed, we do have NAMCO Model SL3ML switches inside containment. We believe these switches may be those listed in error as Model S3CML.

Each Main Steam Isolation Valve (MSIV) uses three NAMCO Model SL3ML switches for position indication and/or Reactor Protection System (RPS) input. The switches are tested weekly. We have not experienced any significant problems with these switches during plant operation, however we have had some problems with the switches after plant outages. We attribute these problems to the fact that the switches are not exercised during an outage. We are planning to change out these switches during the next refueling outage in April 1979.

These switches do not meet the LOCA environmental conditions and they do not serve a primary safety function during the event. The RPS input, a scram from the MSIV closure, is a backup to the high drywell pressure and low reactor water level scrams during a LOCA. It should also be noted that if in the highly unlikely event of all the subject switches in containment failing, the switches on the MSIV's outside containment would provide the MSIV isolation scram.

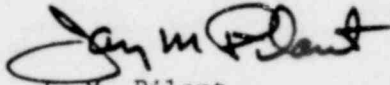
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Based on the discussions above, we plan to operate the plant until such time as we can change them out during a routine plant outage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Pilant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

J. M. Pilant
Director of Licensing
and Quality Assurance

JMP:LCL:cg

cc: K. V. Seyfrit