



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
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FEB 8 1979

Docket No. 50-485

Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation
ATTN: Mr. J. E. Arthur
Chief Engineer
89 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14649

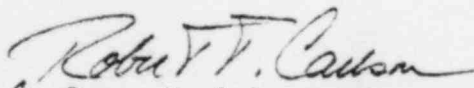
Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Bulletin 79-01 which requires action by you with regard to your power reactor facility(ies) with an operating license, except for the 11 Systematic Evaluation Program (SEP) plants which are listed in Enclosure 3.

This Bulletin is also being sent for information to the 11 SEP plants and all power reactor facilities with a construction permit. No action or written response is required for these two categories of facilities.

Should you have questions regarding this Bulletin or the actions required of you, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


for Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Bulletin No. 79-01
2. List of IE Bulletins
Issued in the past
12 months
3. List of SEP Plants (11)

cc w/encls:

C. R. Anderson, Manager, QA
Lex K. Larson, Esquire
N. A. Petrick, Executive Director, SNUPPS
Gerald Charnoff, Esquire

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

IE Bulletin No. 79-01
Date: February 8, 1979
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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION OF CLASS IE EQUIPMENT

Description of Circumstances:

The intent of IE Circular 78-08 was to highlight to all licensees important lessons learned from environmental qualification deficiencies reported by individual licensees. In this regard, licensees were requested to examine installed safety-related electrical equipment and determine that proper documentation existed which provided assurance that this equipment would function under postulated accident conditions. The scope of IE Circular 78-08 was much broader than other previously issued Bulletins and Circulars (such as IEB 78-04 and IEB 78-02) which addressed specific component failures. The intent of this Bulletin is to raise the threshold of IE Circular 78-08 to the level of a Bulletin; i.e., action requiring a licensee response.

Inspections conducted to date by the NRC of licensees' activities in response to IE Circular 78-08 have identified one component which licensees have found to be unqualified for service within the LOCA environment. Specifically, unqualified stem mounted limit switches (SMLS), other than those identified in previously issued IE Bulletin 78-04, were found to be installed on safety-related valves inside containment at both Duane Arnold and Quad Cities 1 and 2 Nuclear Generating Stations. The unqualified switches are identified as NAMCO Models SL2-C-11, S3CML, SAI-3I, SAI-32, D1200j, EA-700 and EA-770 switches. According to the manufacturer, these switches are designed only for general purpose applications and are not considered suitable devices for service in the LOCA environment. Consequently, switches are being replaced at the above power plants with qualified components.

Also, NRC inspection of component qualification has identified equipment which does not have documentation indicating it is qualified for the LOCA environment. The inspection requires re-review and resolution of the equipment under the attention from all licensees. The NRC is requesting the power reactors to expedite completion of the IE Circular 78-08 dated March 1978.

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