



Docket No. 50-271

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


SEP 26 1979

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

Gentlemen:

The enclosed Information Notice provides information with regard to failures of lube oil coolers for emergency diesel generators.

Sincerely,

  
Boyce H. Grier  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice 79-23
2. List of IE Information Notices Issued in the Last Six Months

cc w/encls:

W. F. Conway, Plant Superintendent  
Ms. J. Abbry, Technical Secretary  
A. Z. Roisman, Natural Resources Defense Council

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ENCLOSURE 1

Accession No: 7908220121  
SSINS: 6870

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

IE Information Notice No. 79-23  
Date: September 26, 1979  
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EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR LUBE OIL COOLERS

Within a two week time span (August 27 to September 11, 1979), the tube sheets failed in the Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO) Unit 1 lube oil coolers for both of the Unit 1 Emergency Diesel Generators. The introduction of water into the diesel lube oil system resulted in trips of both diesels during surveillance testing. The diesels were not considered capable of sustained operation.

Investigation by the licensee has indicated cracks around the outer periphery of the tube sheets. The exact failure mode has not been assessed; however, the licensee has replaced the Emergency Diesel lube oil coolers for both diesels with a cooler of different design. The original lube oil coolers had tube sheets which were one-eighth (1/8) inch in thickness and the tubes were soldered in place. Epoxy was also used as a sealer on the tube (water side) of the lube oil cooler. The new coolers have one-half (1/2) inch tube sheets and the tubes are rolled.

The ANO, Unit 1 Emergency Diesel Generators were purchased in 1970 and were manufactured by the Electromotive Division of General Motors Corporation. The lube oil coolers (Model Number D-191700) were manufactured by Young Radiator Corporation.

This information is provided as an early notification of a possible 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.

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