



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

TERA

February 8, 1979

In Reply Refer To:

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Docket Nos. 50-458/IE Bulletin No. 79-01  
50-459/IE Bulletin No. 79-01

Gulf States Utilities  
Attn: Mr. L. L. Humphreys  
Senior Vice President,  
Energy Development  
Post Office Box 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

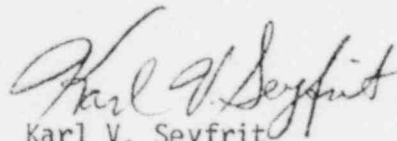
Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Bulletin 79-01. It requires action by you with regard to power reactor facilities with an operating license except for the 11 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 construction permit facilities or the 11 SEP plants.

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

Sincerely,

  
Karl V. Seyfrit  
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)

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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  
Page 1 of 3

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, SA1-31, SA1-32, 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 inspections have also identified that the licensees' re-review and resolution of problem areas are not receiving the level of attention from all licensees which the NRC believes is warranted. Because of the protracted schedule for completion of the re-review, we are now requesting the power reactor facilities with operating licenses to expedite completion of their re-review program originally requested by IE Circular 78-08 dated May 31, 1978.

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