

FEA



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February 2, 1979

Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region 1  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Grier:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Docket No. 50-219  
I E Bulletin No. 78-14

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the directives set forth in I E Bulletin No. 78-14 which is concerned with the deterioration of Buna-N components in ASCO solenoid valves in BWR control rod scram systems. A review has been completed of all Buna-N material applications in the core assemblies, diaphragms and associated parts in the hydraulic control units of the control rod drive system at Oyster Creek. It has been determined that except for the replacements made during the most recent refueling outage (September - December 1978) the Buna-N material in all CRD scram pilot valves, backup scram valves, scram discharge volume vent and drain pilot valves, and scram discharge volume test valves must be considered to have been in service since the plant went operational.

During the 1978 outage, seventeen (17) hydraulic control units in a checkerboard pattern were chosen for ASCO scram valve parts replacement in accordance with General Electric SIL No. 128 and a special General Electric inspection program. No cracking of the Buna-N material was discovered although some of the components were found to have experienced some shrinkage and others had hardened slightly due to natural aging.

After reviewing the condition of the Buna-N material at Oyster Creek, GE recommended that the remaining core discs be replaced on a routine basis during future outages. In response to a subsequent inquiry by the plant staff, GE confirmed their position that there is no immediate need to replace the Buna-N material. Based on the GE data and information, a schedule is presently being developed to inspect and replace the Buna-N material in the remaining valves during the next three (3) years. Should future tests or inspections indicate the need, complete replacement will be accomplished in a shorter time frame. The valves overhauled in any one outage will be associated with control rod drives selected from a distributed

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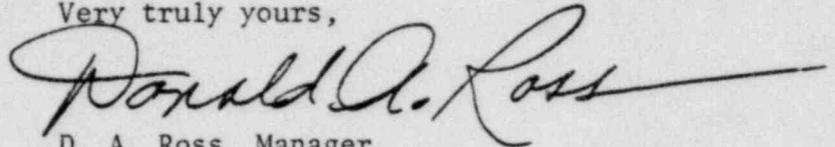
Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director

- 2 -

February 2, 1979

checkerboard pattern as outlined in General Electric SIL No. 128, Revision 1, Supplement 1. In addition, the plant's preventive maintenance program will be expanded to include the inspection and replacement of the Buna-N material in each valve on a periodic basis to assure that the components are not used in excess of (7) years.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald A. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D. A. Ross, Manager  
Nuclear Generating Stations

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cc: United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection  
Washington, D. C. 20555