

Docket Nos. 50-10, 50-237, 50-249,
50-254, 50-265, 50-295, 50-304,
50-373, 50-374, 50-454, 50-455,
50-456, 50-457

JAN 16 1978

Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. Byron Lee, Jr.
Vice President
P.O. Box 767
Chicago, IL 60690

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Bulletin No. 78-01 which requires action by you with regard to your power reactor facilities having an operating license or a construction permit.

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

Sincerely,

James G. Keppler
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Bulletin No. 78-01,
w/attachment
2. List of IE Bulletins issued
during last 12 months

cc w/encls:

B. B. Stephenson, Station
Superintendent
N. Kalivianakis, Station
Superintendent
N. Wandke, Plant Superintendent
L. J. Burke, Site Project
Superintendent
Gunnar Sorenson, Site Project
Superintendent
R. Cosaro, Project Superintendent
Central Files
Reproduction Unit NRC 20b
PDR
Local PDR
NSIC
TIC
Anthony Roisman, Esq., Attorney

OFFICE	RIII	RIII	RIII			
SURNAME	Fiorelli/jb	Heishman	Keppler			
DATE	1/16/78					

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January 16, 1978
IE Bulletin No. 78-01

FLAMMABLE CONTACT-ARM RETAINERS IN G.E. CR120A RELAYS

Description of Circumstances:

On April 18, 1977, a fire was discovered in a relay cabinet in the Peach Bottom Unit 3 facility. The fire damaged eight relays, type CR120A, manufactured by the General Electric Company. The fire was investigated by the licensee, the Philadelphia Electric Company, who concluded that it was caused by an overheated relay coil that ignited the relay's plastic contact-arm retainer. Subsequently, on July 29, 1977, fire damage was discovered in a relay cabinet during surveillance testing in the Peach Bottom Unit 2 facility. This fire damaged 18 G.E. type CR120A relays.

Discussion:

The investigation revealed that the relay's contact-arm retainer was made from Celcon M90 Acetal Copolymer which is a flammable material. In June 1972, this material was changed to Valox 310-SED, which is self extinguishing and flame resistant. Both materials are white and have the same surface appearance. A G.E. Service Information Letter SIL-NO-229 (a copy of the text is attached for information) indicates that there is no generic overheating problem with this type relay. However, they recommend that BWR owners replace the contact-arm retainer of all relays (including BOP applications) marked with manufacturers date code between E.D. (May 1968) and A.J. (January 1973) with the improved, self extinguishing flame resistant contact arm retainers.

Action To Be Taken By Licensees And Permit Holders:

Licensees of power reactor facilities with an operating license and construction permit holders shall take the following actions:

1. Determine if you have installed G.E. type CR120A relays in as wherein fires have the
ment. Also determine if
entory or on order.

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