UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

TIC

APR 2 1980

Docket No. 50-358

Cincinnati Gas and Electric
Company
ATTN: Mr. Earl A. Borgmann
Senior Vice President
Engineering Services
and Electric Production
139 East 4th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Gentlemen:

This Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly 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; however, an IE Circular or Bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions, if required. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,

James G. Keppler
James G. Keppler
Director

Enclosure: IE Information
Notice No. 80-13

cc w/encl:
Mr. J. R. Schott, Plant
Superintendent
Central Files
Director, NRR/DPM
Director, NRR/DOR
PDR
Local PDR
NSIC
TIC
Harold W. Kohn, Power
Siting Commission
Citizens Against a Radioactive
Environment
Helen W. Evans, State of Ohio

SSINS No.: 6870
Accession No.:
8002280650

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

April 2, 1980

IE Information Notice No. 80-13

GENERAL ELECTRIC TYPE SBM CONTROL SWITCHES DEFECTIVE CAM FOLLOWERS

Description of Circumstances:

This Information Notice alerts licensees and holders of construction permits of a potential defect in the cam followers of General Electric (GE) Type SBM control switches. Based on preliminary information, it appears that the defect is limited to switches manufactured prior to 1976 with cam followers of polycarbonate material, such as Lexan. In brief, the problem is initiated by exposing such polycarbonate material to hydrocarbons. Such exposure leads to severe cracking having a rock salt appearance which ultimately could progress to mechanical failure. It has been determined that such exposure has occurred during fabrication and could occur while performing maintenance (e.g. cleaning the contacts).

On February 22 and March 10, 1980 we were informed that SBM switches with defective cam followers had been found at Diablo Canyon Unit 1 and at the Cooper Station, respectively. Although the information was preliminary and sketchy, the problem is a long-standing one for which GE has issued "Service Information Letters" to its BWR customers. The problems associated with such switches, however, are not restricted to GE customers as evidenced by the Diablo Canyon case. Furthermore, these switches have a broad range of application. For example, the defective switches at the Cooper Station were used principally as hand control switches, most of which were located in the control room. In contrast, those at Diablo Canyon Unit 1 were used as auxiliary contacts on the 4KV and 12KV "Magna Blast" circuit breakers, with three SBM switches used per breaker: (1) a breaker mounted auxiliary switch, (2) a cell mounted auxiliary switch, and (3) a cell interlock switch.

This information is provided as notification of a possibly significant matter that is still under review by the NRC staff. 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 you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Enclosure

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IE INFORMATION NOTICES

| Information Notice No. | Subject | Date Issued | Issued To |
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| 80-12 | Instrument Failure Causes Opening of PORV and Block Valve | 3/31/80 | All holders of Power Reactor OLs and CPs |
| 80-11 | General Problems with ASCO Valves in Nuclear Application Including Fire Protection Systems | 3/14/80 | All holders of Reactor OL, CP, fuel fabrication and processing facilities |
| 80-10 | Partial Loss of Non-Nuclear Instrument System Power Supply During Operation | 3/7/80 | All power reactor facilities holding OLs and CPs |
| 80-09 | Possible Occupational Health Hazard Associated with Closed Cooling Systems | 3/7/80 | All holders of power reactor OLs and near term CPs |
| 80-08 | The States Company Sliding Link Electrical Terminal Block | 3/7/80 | All power reactor facilities with an OL or a CP |
| 80-07 | Pump Shaft Fatigue Cracking | 2/29/80 | All Light Water Reactor Facilities holder power reactor OLs and CPs |
| 80-06 | Notification of Significant Events | 2/27/80 | All holders of Reactor OLs and to near term OL applicants |
| 80-05 | Chloride Contamination of Safety Related Piping | 2/8/80 | All licensees of nuclear power reactor facilities and applicants and holders of nuclear power reactor CPs |
| 80-04 | BWR Fuel Exposure in Excess of Limits | 2/4/80 | All BWR's holding a power reactor OL or CP |
| 80-03 | Main Turbine Electro-Hydraulic Control System | 1/31/80 | All holders of power reactor OLs and CPs |
| 80-02 | 8X8R Water Rod Lower End Plug Wear | 1/25/80 | All BWR Facilities holder power reactor OLs or CPs |