



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

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May 14. 1980

In Reply Refer To:

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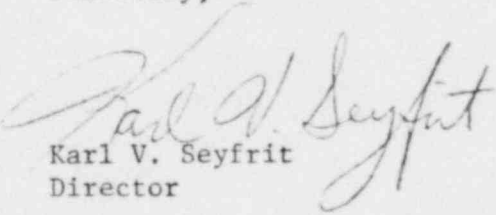
Docket Nos. 50-498/IE Circular No. 80-12
50-499/IE Circular No. 80-12

Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: Mr. E. A. Turner, Vice President
Power Plant Construction and
Technical Services
Post Office Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77001

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 80-12, is forwarded to you for information. If there are any questions related to your understanding of the suggested actions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Karl V. Seyfrit
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Circular No. 80-12
2. List of Recently Issued
IE Circulars

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

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IE Circular No. 80-12
Date: May 14, 1980
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VALVE-SHAFT-TO-ACTUATOR KEY MAY FALL OUT OF PLACE WHEN MOUNTED BELOW HORIZONTAL AXIS

Description of Circumstances:

Tennessee Valley Authority has identified and reported to the NRC a nonconformance on a Bettis Robot-Arm actuator installed on a Pratt Butterfly Valve at the Sequoyah nuclear plant.

It is reported (ref. attached 10 CFR 50.55(e) report) that a valve became inoperable when the valve-shaft-to-actuator key fell out of place. It is further noted that the orientation of this valve assembly was such that the operator was on the bottom of the valve (below the horizontal axis).

The Pratt Butterfly Valve furnished with Bettis actuator is designed with a press-fit keyway connection valve/actuator. We believe other manufacturer's connections may be of similar construction and therefore subject to this failure mode.

On May 1, 1980, Pratt Company sent letters to their customers who have these connections (enclosed list). They recommended that their customers review their installation of such connections, and if the keyway is oriented below horizontal, make one of the following field modifications:

1. Add a spacer bushing, or shim plate to fill the void between the top of the shaft and the indicating plate on the actuator.
2. Locally upset the end of the valve shaft in the area of the keyway using a hand punch in such a way that the key could not work loose.
3. Install new keys of longer length which extend above the end of the valve shaft whereby the key is up to the actuator plate and could not slip down if inverted.

Recommended Action for Licensee Consideration

We request that all plants make the above described connections similar to the above described connections not supplied by those particular manufacturers. If these connections are susceptible to failure, one of the following appropriate action should be taken to prevent recurrence:

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously entered into system under:

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No. of pages: 5