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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

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April 29, 1980

Docket Nos. 50-245
50-336
50-423

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
ATTN: Mr. W. G. Council
Vice President - Nuclear
Engineering and Operations
P. O. Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 80-10, "Failure to Maintain Environmental Qualification Equipment," is forwarded to you for information. No written response is required. If you desire additional information regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Boyce H. Grier
Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

- 1. IE Circular No. 80-10
 - 2. List of Recently Issued IE Circulars
- CONTACT: S. D. Ebnetter
(215-337-5283)

cc w/encls:

- J. F. Opeka, Station Superintendent
- D. G. Diedrick, Manager of Quality Assurance
- J. R. Himmelwright, Licensing Safeguards Engineer
- K. W. Gray, Supervisor of Construction Quality Assurance
- H. R. Nims, Director of Nuclear Projects

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

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IE Circular No. 80-10
April 29, 1980
Page 1 of 1

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT

Description of Circumstances:

Carolina Power and Light recently reported that the wrong class of insulating material had been used at their H. B. Robinson Nuclear Plant when the motor leads of a containment fan cooler were reconnected. The motor leads had been disconnected during the refueling outage to supply power to welding equipment. When the motor leads were reconnected, the wrong class of insulating material degraded the environmental qualification of the containment fan cooler motor. A similar event, reported by Duquesne Light Company, occurred when a containment fan cooler motor was not installed with the proper cable insulation.

The NRC has previously issued IE Circular 78-08 and IE Bulletins 79-01 and 79-01B concerning environmental qualification of Class IE equipment. These Bulletins primarily address the environmental qualification of equipment as purchased and installed; however, the above events emphasize the importance of properly installing and maintaining environmentally qualified equipment.

Recommended Action for Licensee Consideration:

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits should recognize the potential for degradation of environmentally qualified equipment due to improper maintenance or improper use. It is recommended that licensees review current maintenance procedures and administrative policies to ensure the following:

1. Adequate administrative controls exist to ensure that equipment which is environmentally qualified is identified prior to maintenance.
2. Maintenance procedures provide necessary instructions and precautions to ensure that the environmental qualification of equipment is not degraded when maintenance is completed.
3. Maintenance personnel are adequately trained on environmental qualification requirements and the potential for equipment degradation from improper maintenance.

No written response to this Circular is required. If you require additional information regarding this matter, contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

ENCLOSURE 2

IE Circular No. 80-10
Date: April 29, 1980
Page 1 of 1

RECENTLY ISSUED IE CIRCULARS

Circular No.	Subject	First Date of Issue	Issued To
79-25	Shock Arrestor Strut Assembly Inteference	12/20/79	All Power Reactor Licensees with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
79-25 Supplement A	Shock Arrestor Strut Assembly Interierence	1/31/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-01	Service Advice for GE Induction Disc Relays	1/17/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-02	Nuclear Power Plant Staff Work Hours	2/1/80	All Power and Research Reactors with an OL or CP
80-03	Protection from Toxic Gas Hazards	3/6/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL
80-04	Securing Threaded Locking Devices on Safety-Related Equipment	3/14/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-05	Emergency Diesel Generator Lubricating Oil Addition and Onsite Supply	4/1/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-06	Control and Accountability Systems for Implant Therapy Sources	4/14/80	Medical Licensees in Categories G and G1
80-07	Problems with HPCI Turbine Oil System	4/3/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-08	BWR Technical Specification Inconsistency - RPS Response Time	4/18/80	All General Electric BWRs holding a power reactor OL
80-09	Problems with Plant Internal Communications Systems	4/28/80	All holders of a reactor OL or CP