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

May 6, 1980

Docket No. 50-77

Catholic University
ATTN: Dr. Y. C. Whang, Chairman
Mechanical Engineering Department
620 Michigan Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20064

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Information Notice No. 80-19, "NIOSH Recall of Recirculating-Mode (Closed-Circuit) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (Rebreather)," which addresses the NIOSH "stop-sales-and-recall" order to the manufacturers of the BioPak 60P rebreather respirator. Should you have any questions related to the enclosed authorization or guidance, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

J. Robert T. Callon
Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 80-19
2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

CONTACT: P. Knapp
(215-337-5291)

cc w/encls:

Dr. E. D. Jordan, Director of Information Systems and Planning
W. Keene, Radiation Safety Official

8005290328

ENCLOSURE 1

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

SSINS: 6870
Accession No.:
8002280674

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NIOSH RECALL OF RECIRCULATING-MODE (CLOSED CIRCUIT) SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (REBREATHER)

The NRC has been informed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the agency that tests and certifies respirators, that some of the NIOSH-certified respiratory protective equipment that NRC licensees use might have been modified by the manufacturer without approval by NIOSH. NIOSH considers such modified equipment not to be certified, even though it might bear their test and certification label.

The equipment in question is the BioPak 30P and 60P, NIOSH test-and-certification numbers TC-13F-84 and TC-13F-85, respectively. The BioPak 30P and 60P are respectively 30-minute and 60-minute, closed-circuit, recirculating-mode, self-contained breathing apparatuses (rebreathers), manufactured by BioMarine Industries, Inc. Our information leads us to believe that NRC licensees have purchased only the 60P equipment.

NIOSH has issued a "stop-sales-and-recall" order to the manufacturer for this equipment. Licensees who have such equipment should check with the manufacturer to determine what action to take to assure that their equipment is in certified status.

The manufacturer's address and telephone number are:

BioMarine Industries Inc.
45 Great Valley Corporate Center
Malvern, PA 19355

Tel: (215) 647-7200

ENCLOSURE 2

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RECENTLY ISSUED IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued to
80-10	Partial Loss of Non-Nuclear Instrument System Power Supply During Operation	3/7/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-11	Generic Problems With ASCO Valves in Nuclear Applications including Fire Protection Systems	3/14/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP, Fuel Fabrication and Processing Facilities
80-12	Instrument Failure Causes Opening of PORV and Block Valve	3/31/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-13	General Electric Type SBM Control Switches - Defective CAM Followers	4/2/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-14	Safety Suggestions from Employees	4/2/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP, Fuel Fabrication and Processing Facilities and Materials Priority 1 Licensees
80-15	Axial (Longitudinal) Oriented Cracking in Piping	4/21/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-16	Shaft Seal Packing Causes Binding in Main Steam Swing Check and Isolation Valves	5/5/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-17	Potential Hazards Associated With Interchangeable Parts On Radiographic Equipment	5/5/80	All Radiographic Licensees
80-18	Possible Weapons Smuggling Pouch	5/5/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL, Fuel Fabrication and Processing Facilities and Materials Priority I Licensees