



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

PDR
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NSIC
CENTRAL FILES

March 31, 1980

In Reply Refer To:

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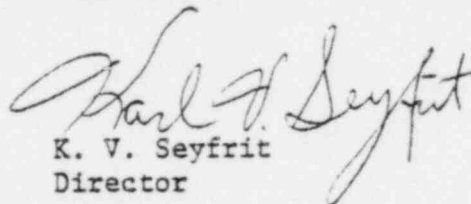
Docket Nos. 50-458/IE Information Notice No. 80-12
50-459/IE Information Notice No. 80-12

Gulf States Utilities
Attn: Dr. J. G. Weigand, Vice President
Operations and Technical Systems
Post Office Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Gentlemen:

This IE Information Notice is provided as a 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. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Circular or Bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,


K. V. Seyfrit
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice
No. 80-12
2. List of IE Information
Notices Recently Issued

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

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March 31, 1980
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INSTRUMENT FAILURE CAUSES OPENING OF PORV AND BLOCK VALVE

Description of Circumstances:

On August 13, 1979, during full, steady-state power operation at the Connecticut Yankee Haddam Neck Plant, the pressurizer power operated relief valve (PORV) and its isolation (block) valve opened as a result of failure a light source in the sigma bistable of the pressurizer pressure controller. The failure of the light source was equivalent in control system response to an overpressure condition in the pressurizer. By system design, both PORV and block valves are closed during normal operation and therefore both valves are required to open in response to an overpressure condition. The opening of the PORV and block valve allowed the pressurizer pressure to drop from its normal value of 2000 psig to 1950 psig before the PORV and block valves could be closed. The operator immediately overrode the open signal to the valves and closed the valves to stop depressurization. The pressurizer pressure then immediately returned to normal.

The light source was subsequently replaced in the bistable and the pressure control system was returned to normal.

The licensee reported that failures of light sources in the bistable of this pressure controller and in other similar plant bistables had been experienced previously. Subsequently on February 4, 1980, a spurious signal from the pressure controller caused both PORV and block valve to open. In both events, the operator responded immediately and effectively to limit the consequences of the event to a relatively mild pressure transient on the reactor coolant system. The licensee also indicated that it had changed out the type of bistable with a solid state design which does not depend on a light source and which is expected to be more reliable.

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LISTING OF RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

| Information Notice No. | Subject | Date Issued | Issued To |
|------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| 80-06 | Notification of Significant Events | 2/27/80 | All holders of Reactor Operating Licenses (OLs) and to near term Operating Licenses (OL) applicants |
| 80-07 | Pump Shaft Fatigue Cracking | 2/29/80 | All Light Water Reactor Facilities holder power reactor Operating Licenses (OLs) and Construction Permits (CPs) |
| 80-08 | The States Company Sliding Link Electrical Terminal | 3/7/80 | All power reactor facilities with an Operating License (OL) or a Construction Permit |
| 80-09 | Possible Occupational Health Hazard Associated With Closed Cooling Systems For Operating Power Plants | 3/7/80 | All holders of power reactor Operating Licenses (OLs) and near term Construction Permits (CPs) |
| 80-10 | Partial Loss of Non-Nuclear Instrument System Power Supply During Operation | 3/7/80 | All Power reactor facilities holding Operating Licenses (OLs) and Construction Permits (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 |

Enclosure