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

October 10, 1980

In Reply Refer To:

RIV

Docket Nos. 50-498/IE Information Notice No. 80-36
50-499/IE Information Notice No. 80-36

Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: Mr. G. W. Oprea, Jr.
Executive Vice President
Post Office Box 177
Houston, Texas 77001

Gentlemen:

This IE 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. 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,

Karl V. Seyfrit
Karl V. Seyfrit
Director

Enclosures:

- 1. IE Information Notice
No. 80-36
- 2. List of Recently Issued
IE Information Notices

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DUPLICATE

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

IE Information Notice No.: 80-36
Date: October 10, 1980
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FAILURE OF STEAM GENERATOR SUPPORT BOLTING

Description of Circumstances:

On September 4, 1980, the NRC staff was informed by the Northern States Power Company that extensive cracking of the bolting for the supports attached to the bottom of the steam generators on Prairie Island Unit 1 had occurred. The licensee initially discovered the bolting problem when two bolts failed during detensioning. The licensee was attempting to remove the pre-load on the bolting (specified at 1400 ft-lbs) to minimize the potential for stress corrosion cracking of the high strength 1-1/2 inch diameter 250 ksi maraging steel bolting (Vascomax 250).

Ultrasonic examination of the support bolting revealed cracks or breaks in 47 of 48 support bolts for the two steam generators at the Prairie Island Unit 1 facility. The licensee subsequently shut down the Prairie Island Unit 2 facility and performed ultrasonic examinations of the same steam generator support bolting, that failed on Unit 1. The results of the UT examinations revealed cracks in three of the 48 steam generator support bolts. The licensee attempted to remove the cracked bolts from the steam generator supports. Two cracked bolts were successfully removed while the third failed during removal. Two bolts that were judged as defect free by the ultrasonic examination were also removed. Magnetic particle examinations confirmed the results of the ultrasonic examinations on the bolts which were removed. As part of the short term corrective actions taken, the licensee has unloaded and retensioned the bolting at approximately 50 to 100 ft.-lbs.

Inservice ultrasonic examination of the affected bolting had been performed previously. In the case of Unit 1 a significant number of the bolts were examined at the last refueling outage 14 months ago. No cracks were found at that time.

The susceptibility for stress corrosion cracking was identified in NUREG-0577 (for comment). The NUREG identifies those facilities which have utilized maraging steels for reactor coolant pump and steam generator support bolting. Further the NUREG recommends augmented inspections for the facilities included in Group I.

Licensees are encouraged to review the bolting materials used at their respective facilities and consider inspection of maraging steel bolting that are either pre-loaded or significantly loaded during operation.

This Information Notice is provided as an early 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 facility. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

IE Information No. 80-36
October 10, 1980

LISTING OF RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued To
80-29	Broken Studs on Terry Turbine Steam Inlet Flange	8/7/80	All light water reactor facilities holding power reactor Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
80-30	Potential for Unacceptable Interaction Between the Control Rod Drive Scram Function and Non-Essential Control Air at Certain GE BWR Facilities	8/19/80	All boiling water reactor facilities holding power reactor Operating Licenses (OLs) or Construction Permits (CPs)
80-31	Maloperation of Gould-Brown Boveri Type 480 volt type K-600S and and K-DON 600S circuit breakers	8/27/80	All light water reactor facilities holding Operating Licenses or Construction Permits (CPs)
80-32	Clarification of certain requirements for Exclusive-use shipments of radioactive materials	8/12/80	All NRC and agreement state licensees
80-33	Determination of Teletherapy Timer Accuracy	9/15/80	All teletherapy (G3) licensees
80-34	Boron Dilution of Reactor Coolant During Steam Generator Decontamination	9/26/80	All Pressurized Water Reactor Facilities holding power reactor Operating Licenses (OLs)
80-35	Leaking and Dislodged Iodine-124 Implant Seeds	10/10/80	All categories G and G1 medical licensees

Enclosure