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

October 31, 1980

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

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

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COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Information Notice No. 80-39, "Malfunctions of Solenoid Valves Manufactured by Valcor Engineering Corporation," 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 Information Notice No. 80-39
- 2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

CONTACT: D. L. Capton
(215-337-5266)

cc w/encls:

- J. F. Opeka, System Superintendent Nuclear Operations
- E. J. Mroczka, 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

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

October 31, 1980

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 80-39: MALFUNCTION OF SOLENOID VALVES MANUFACTURED
BY VALCOR ENGINEERING CORPORATION

PURPOSE:

The intent of this Information Notice is to alert holders of construction permits and operating licenses for nuclear power plants of a potentially generic problem involving the malfunctioning of certain solenoid valves manufactured by the Valcor Engineering Corporation (Valcor). The solenoid valves so involved are designated as Valcor Valve Model No. V52600-554-1. Valcor has informed us that these valves have only been supplied to the McGuire facility; however, since these valves were substituted for solenoid valves of another manufacturer that did not meet the requirements of IE Bulletin No. 79-01 and its amendments, licensees and holders of construction permits should take into account the problem identified in this Information Notice prior to making any similar substitution.

BACKGROUND:

By TWX dated June 27, 1980, Valcor submitted a preliminary 10 CFR Part 21 Report addressing the malfunctioning of Valcor solenoid valves at the McGuire facility. The malfunctioning valves have been identified as Valcor Valve Model No. 32600-554-1. This TWX was subsequently followed by a letter dated July 3, 1980, transmitting a more detailed Part 21 Report entitled, "Quality Assurance Report", a copy of which is attached hereto as Enclosure No. 1.

In brief, the malfunction appears to be an intermittent type wherein the valve fails to cycle from OPEN to CLOSE to OPEN immediately after a sustained period of operation in the energized (OPEN) mode. Although the valves are rated for "continuous operation", Valcor contends that the valves were not designed to meet the operating conditions requiring the immediate cycling from OPEN to CLOSE to OPEN after a sustained period of continuous energization. A major source of the problem, therefore, may be a misunderstanding of the term "continuous operation". By letter dated July 14, 1980 to Duke Power Company, Valcor transmitted its recommendations in this matter entitled, "Outline - Suggested Modification Procedures", a copy of which is attached hereto as Enclosure No. 2.

ENCLOSURE

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously
entered into system under:

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No. of pages: 6