



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

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January 27, 1981

Docket No. 50-267

Public Service Company of Colorado
ATTN: Mr. C. K. Millen
Senior Vice President
P. O. Box 840
Denver, Colorado 80201



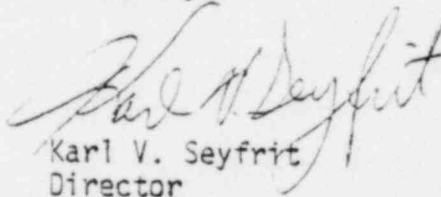
Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Bulletin No. 81-01 is forwarded for your action with regard to your nuclear power facility.

To assist the NRC in evaluating the value/impact of each bulletin on all licensees, it would be helpful if you would provide an estimate of the manpower expended in the review and preparation of the report(s) required by the bulletin. Please estimate separately the manpower associated with corrective actions required by this bulletin.

Should you have any questions regarding this bulletin or the actions required of you, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Karl V. Seyfrit
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Bulletin No. 81-01
2. List of Recently issued IE Bulletins

cc: D. W. Warembourg, Nuclear Production
Manager

Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Station
P. O. Box 368
Platteville, Colorado 80651

L. Brey, Manager, Quality Assurance

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SSINS No.: 6820
Accession No.:
8005050075

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

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SURVEILLANCE OF MECHANICAL SNUBBERS

Description of Circumstances:

Several instances of failures of mechanical snubbers supplied by International Nuclear Safeguards Corporation (INC) have been identified that indicate possible deficiencies in these snubbers. A summary of the failures that have occurred is provided below:

1. On August 9, 1974, the Tennessee Valley Authority submitted event report BFA0-50-260/741W identifying 11 of 14 INC Model MSVA-1A snubbers that were found inoperable on Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Station Unit 2 and subsequently identified 5 of 14 inoperable units on Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Unit No 3. All of these units were found to be frozen, and the cause was attributed to a failure to lubricate the parts during assembly. The failed snubbers were replaced with new units produced by the same manufacturer.
2. On April 12, 1976, the St. Lucie Plant Unit 1 facility of Florida Power and Light Company submitted event report No. 50-335-76-9 wherein five INC Model MSVA-1 snubbers were identified as inoperable because they were found to be frozen. The failures were caused by oxidation on the internals and by improper assembly. All INC mechanical snubbers were replaced with units produced by another manufacturer.
3. On April 8, 1977, Iowa Electric Light and Power Company submitted event report No. 77-23 for the Duane Arnold Energy Center facility that identified 13 INC Model IMSVA-1 Type AS snubbers to be frozen; the cause of failure was attributed to large amounts of interior oxidation. The units were replaced with those produced by another manufacturer.
4. On December 5, 1979, personnel from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission visited Department of Energy (DOE) facilities at Richland, Washington, to obtain information on DOE experience with INC snubbers at the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF). The DOE-owned 4,000 mechanical pipe restraints (snubbers) at the FFTF examined more than 800 of these

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