

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

511 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

October 31, 1980

In Reply Refer To:

RIV

Docket Nos. 50-458/IE Information Notice No. 80-39  
50-459/IE Information Notice No. 80-39

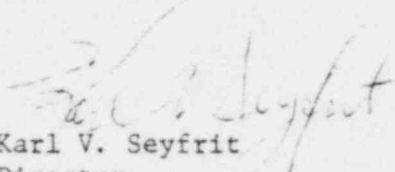
Gulf States Utilities  
Attn: Dr. E. Linn Draper, Jr.  
Vice President - Technology  
Post Office Box 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Information Notice provides early notification of an event that may have safety significance. Accordingly, you should review the Information Notice for possible applicability to your facilities.

No specific action or response is requested at this time; however, contingent upon the results of further staff evaluation, a Bulletin or Circular recommending or requesting specific licensee actions may be issued. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Karl V. Seyfrit  
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 80-39
2. List of Recently issued IE Information Notices

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Accession No.:  
8008220245

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

IE Information Notice No. 80-39  
Date: October 31, 1980  
Page 1 of 1

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. V52600-554-1. 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, this matter entitled, "Outline -" of which is attached hereto as

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously  
entered into system under:

ANO 8008220245

No. of pages: 7