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

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

JAN 23 1981

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



Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 81-01, "Design Problems Involving Indicating Pushbutton Switches Manufactured by Honeywell Incorporated," 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 Circular 81-01
2. List of Recently Issued Circulars

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cc w/encls:

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

January 23, 1981

IE CIRCULAR NO. 81-01: DESIGN PROBLEMS INVOLVING INDICATING PUSHBUTTON SWITCHES MANUFACTURED BY HONEYWELL INCORPORATED

Background:

By letter dated September 18, 1980 (J. M. Curran to R. H. Engelken), Southern California Edison Company (SCE) notified NRC of design problems involving certain indicating pushbutton switches. The subject switches are of the type designated as Series 2 indicating pushbutton switches that are manufactured by the Micro Switch Division of Honeywell Incorporated. The switches identified by SCE as having design deficiencies are used on the containment isolation panels at San Onofre Unit 1 (Docket No. 50-206).

SCE identified two problems with the subject switches, both of which manifest themselves during relamping: (1) a short circuit may be induced; and (2) the circuit controlled by the switch may inadvertently be actuated. Although the specificity of this circular is restricted to the previously mentioned Series 2 switches the deficiencies cited may be common to other indicating pushbutton switches. Accordingly, holders of operating licenses and construction permits should scrutinize the design of other indicating pushbutton switches in their facilities for susceptibility to the above problems.

By letter dated October 10, 1980 (J. G. Haynes to R. H. Engelken), SCE submitted a detailed followup report addressing the defective switches. Sections of the SCE report containing relevant information have been excerpted and included in the paragraphs that follow. Sections so excerpted are identified by quotation marks.

Discussion:

The SCE report provided the following details of the problems previously mentioned:

- "1. The design of indicating pushbutton switches is such that during insertion of the lamp assembly into the switch housing, shorting could occur between the metallic plunger and the energized indicator lamp connection inside the switch housing. If the switch housing is connected to the cabinet ground, the shorting could be shorted to the control circuit if it is energized.

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