



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

Docket No. 50-271

MAR 4 1981

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. Robert L. Smith  
Licensing Engineer  
1671 Worcester Road  
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701



Gentlemen:

IE Bulletin No. 81-01, "Surveillance of Mechanical Snubbers," transmitted to you on January 27, 1981, has been revised to change the identification of the power reactor facilities with construction permits to which the Bulletin is applicable. This change does not affect your requirements with respect to the original Bulletin. As a result, the enclosed revised pages 5 and 6, are forwarded to you for information.

If you desire additional information regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

*Boyce H. Grier*  
Boyce H. Grier  
Director

Enclosures:  
Revised pages 5 and 6 of IE Bulletin 81-01 and  
List of Recently Issued IE Bulletins

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cc w/encls:  
Mr. Warren P. Murphy, Plant Superintendent  
Mr. W. F. Conway, Vice President and Manager of Operations  
Mr. J. E. Griffin, President  
Mr. L. H. Heider, Vice President

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

January 27, 1981

IE Bulletin No. 81-01: 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 BFAO-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 Corporation 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 FFTF was equipped with more than 4,000 mechanical pipe restraints (snubbers) supplied by INC. In 1978, FFTF examined more than 800 from their installation and were frozen. The plant was seen no service and had been in environments for 1 to 2 years.

Attachment:  
Recently issued IE bulletins

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously  
entered into system under:

ANO 8005050075

No. of pages: 7