UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
101 MARIETTA ST., N.W., SUITE 3100
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

JAN 27 1981

In Reply Refer To:
RII:JPO
50-302

Florida Power Corporation
ATTN: J. A. Hancock, Assistant
Vice President Nuclear Operations
P. O. Box 14042, Mail Stop C-4
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

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 by you, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

James P. O'Reilly
Director

Enclosures:
1. IE Bulletin No. 81-01
2. List of Recently Issued
IE Bulletins

cc w/encl:
D. C. Poole, Nuclear Plant Manager

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SSINS No.: 6820
Accession No.:
8005050075
IEB 81-01

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 Station 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 1MSVA-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 [illegible]ubbers) supplied by INC. In 1978, [illegible] mechanical snubbers by removing them [illegible]at 43, or about 5% of those examined, [illegible]der construction so the snubbers had [illegible]ed to only normal construction

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ANO 8005050075

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