

50.55(e)

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Public Service Electric and Gas Company 80 Park Plaza Newark, N.J. 07101 201/430-8316

August 17, 1981



Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region 1
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Grier:

SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION DEFICIENCY
VARGLASS WIRE TIES
NO. 1 AND 2 UNITS
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

On July 17, 1981, a verbal report was made to Region 1, Office of Inspection and Enforcement representative, Mr. L. Briggs, advising of a potential significant construction deficiency. The following report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.55(e).

Description of the Deficiency

Direct Current (DC) Motor Control Centers, manufactured by General Electric at Mebane, North Carolina, are assembled using Varglass wire ties around wire bundles. The Varglass material tends to unravel and loosen resulting in the potential of the wire ties falling between relay contacts, thereby inhibiting operation of safety related equipment. Four (4) DC Motor Control units have been received at Hope Creek from General Electric.

Analysis of Safety Implications

As a result of the wire ties becoming loose, some of them could fall between relay contacts, preventing the relay(s) from closing. This could prevent the DC powered pump discharge shutoff valve from opening on demand in the HPCI and RCIC systems. Although the redundant Emergency Core Cooling System would assure safe shutdown of the facility, we consider this condition reportable in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

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Corrective Action

General Electric has been advised to make the Varglass ties tight and to apply silicone sealer at the knot and also between the knot and the cable so the knot does not slip or unravel.

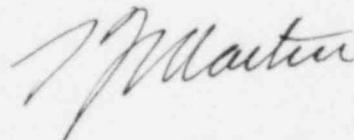
One of the previously delivered units has already been returned to General Electric for repair of the wire ties. A second unit is scheduled to be returned on or about September 1, 1981. The remaining two units on site will be inspected by Bechtel and, if the same condition exists, they will be repaired by General Electric. The inspections will be completed by September 4, 1981.

Bechtel's Supplier Quality Representative at the General Electric facility has been instructed to inspect all future shipments for proper securing of the ties.

Bechtel Engineering will check for use of Varglass ties from the other Hope Creek suppliers of safety related electrical switchgear and motor control centers. This investigation will be completed by October 9, 1981. The above remedial action will be applied to any other suppliers using Varglass ties.

Documentation of the results of these actions will be available on site for review by your inspectors.

Very truly yours,



CC: Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Construction Inspection
Washington, DC

NRC Resident Inspector - Hope Creek
P.O. Box 241
Hancocks Bridge, NJ