



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

FEB 26 1991

Docket No: 99900053/90-01

Mr. George W. Knieser
Quality Assurance Manager
Anchor/Darling Valve Company
701 First Street
P.O. Box 3428
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701

Dear Mr. Knieser:

This letter and its enclosures refer to the inspection conducted by Mr. R. Pettis and Ms. A. Fitzgerald of this office on November 13-16, 1990, of your facility at Williamsport, Pennsylvania and the discussions of the findings with you or your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

The inspection was conducted to review Anchor/Darling Valve Company's (A/DV's) response and implementation of corrective actions to previously identified violations and nonconformances. A/DV's program for dedication of commercial-grade items (CGI) used in safety-related applications was also reviewed.

During this inspection it was found that the implementation of your quality assurance (QA) program failed to meet certain NRC requirements. The most significant problem was the failure of A/DV to adequately review for suitability spare/replacement parts used in nuclear safety-related valves procured by A/DV to the nuclear industry. Specifically, A/DV relies upon a sampling method to verify suitability of application of CGIs procured for use in safety-related applications. This method does not assure that the remaining items procured are identical in all aspects to the item dedicated using the sampling method. The utilization of this method appears to have contributed to the problem in which several licensees received actuator rebuild kits for Feedwater and Main Steam Isolation Valves which contained o-rings of incorrect material (Buna-N instead of Viton). A/DV submitted a 10 CFR Part 21 report to the NRC on January 30, 1990, which stated that the incorrect material could cause operational problems which could adversely affect the safety-related function of the valve. A/DV also stated that all orders for safety-related o-rings processed after February 12, 1990, will receive dedication on a 100% basis. During the inspection, A/DV stated that at present there were no plans to apply the 100% method to items other than o-rings which are procured as a CGI for use in safety-related applications.

It was also identified during the inspection that A/DV failed to perform implementation audits, as required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, or alternate measures for verifying that suppliers of safety-related material hold(n) a Quality Systems Certificate issued by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) are effectively implementing the approved QA programs.

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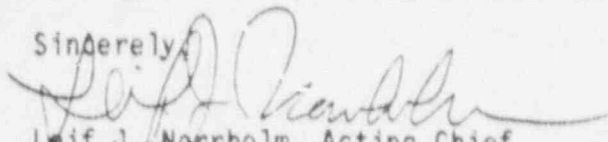
The specific findings and references to the pertinent requirements are identified in the enclosures to this letter. Areas examined during the inspection and our findings are discussed in the enclosed report. The inspection consisted of an examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspectors.

In response to the enclosed Notice of Nonconformance, please provide us within 30 days from the date of this letter, a written statement containing: (1) a description of the steps that have been or will be taken to correct these items; (2) a description of the steps that have been or will be taken to prevent recurrence; and (3) the dates that your corrective action and preventive measures were or will be completed. We will consider extending the response time if you can show good cause for us to do so.

The responses requested by this letter are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 95-511. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and its appendices will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room. In addition, a copy of this report will be forwarded to the ASME for their review and information.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Leif J. Norrholm, Acting Chief
Vendor Inspection Branch
Division of Reactor Inspection
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

- 1. Appendix A - Notice of Nonconformance
- 2. Appendix B - Inspection Report No. 99900053/90-01

cc: Melvin R. Green, Executive Director
Codes and Standards
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
345 East 47th Street
New York, New York 10017

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