



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

MAR 14 1985

Mr. Cliff Bemiller
Cooper Bessemer Corporation
Lincoln Avenue
Grove City, Pennsylvania 16127

Dear Mr. Bemiller

SUBJECT: OVERSPEED TRIP DUE TO BINDING LINKAGE

During startup testing of the Palo Verde Unit 1 on August 31, 1984 a Cooper Energy emergency diesel generator (#1MDGAH01) tripped out on overspeed. The trip was attributed by Palo Verde to mechanical binding between the fuel injection pump control shaft and the encircling handle causing the fuel control mechanism to stick in the open position resulting in uncontrolled diesel speed.

Examination of the control mechanism by Palo Verde defined the cause of the mechanical binding to be moisture and dirt contamination combined with a lack of proper lubrication. Palo Verde subsequently issued a Preventive Maintenance Task which ensures proper quarterly service.

According to the Region V NRC inspectors, the Cooper Energy technical manual does not specify lubrication for the linkage that caused the problem at Palo Verde. The NRC considers this a potentially generic issue since other Cooper Energy diesel generators at nuclear power plants may be affected.

We request that you review this concern. If you determine from your investigation that the technical manual does contain adequate lubrication information, please forward a copy of the applicable section for our review. If your investigation determines that the technical manual does not provide adequate lubrication instruction, please inform us of the nuclear power plants which may be affected and your corrective action, if any. You are reminded to evaluate this concern under the requirements of 10CFR21. For your information, Palo Verde has not reported this as a 10CFR21 or a 10CFR50.55(e) item.

Robert L. Baer
Robert L. Baer, Chief
Engineering and Generic Communications Branch
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Technical Contact: J. C. Stewart, IE
(301) 492-9061

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