

Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

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January 21, 1985

Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Dr. Murley:

SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION DEFICIENCY
INCOMPATIBLE GREASE-LIMITORQUE OPERATORS
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

On December 19, 1984, a verbal report was made to Region I, Office of Inspection and Enforcement representative, Mr. J. Strosneider, advising of a construction deficiency concerning the addition of grease to Limitorque operators that is incompatible with the grease supplied by the manufacturer. The following final report is provided in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

Description of the Deficiency

During routine maintenance activities, craft personnel, working for our Architect/Engineer and Constructor, Bechtel, added Exxon Nebula EP-2 grease to Limitorque valve operators that were shipped from the manufacturer with Exxon Nebula EP-0 or Sun Oil 50EP grease. Bechtel has determined that the potential exists for the grease to cake or run out of the operators. Consequently, operation without failure cannot be assured. Bechtel has identified a total of 532 Limitorque operators to be inspected for this condition.

Safety Analysis

We have determined that the potential exists for the grease to cake or run out of the operators and that operation without failure cannot be assured. Because some of the Limitorque

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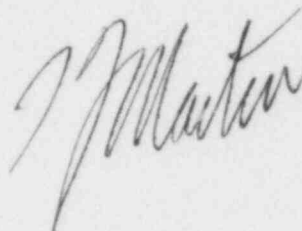
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operators perform safety related functions, we cannot assure that the safe operation of the plant would not be adversely affected. We, therefore, consider this condition to be reportable in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

Corrective Action

In conjunction with Limitorque Corporation, Bechtel has developed procedures for removing the EP-2 grease from the operators. Bechtel is utilizing a simple litmus paper test to distinguish the Sun Oil 50EP grease from the Exxon Nebula EP-0 grease. To date, Bechtel has inspected and removed the EP-2 grease from 470 of the 532 Limitorque operators. The inspection and grease removal activities for all of the Limitorque operators will be controlled by and documented on Nonconformance Report No. 5047.

Very truly yours,



C Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Construction Inspection
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