

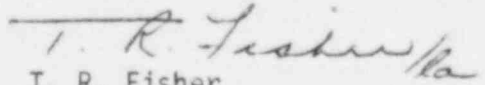
50-354

March 3, 1986

Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attached is 10CFR21 Reportable Incident involving Tobar's Model 32 Transmitters with Polyester Housings.

Any questions regarding this report should be directed to me or James H. Murphy, Product Integrity Manager.


T. R. Fisher
President and General Manager

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10CFR21 REPORTABLE INCIDENT
TOBAR MODEL 32 TRANSMITTERS WITH POLYESTER HOUSINGS

Tobar has, starting August 1983, supplied to Bechtel Power Corporation for installation at PSE&G Hope Creek Station, 188 Model 32-2 pressure and differential pressure transmitters which have aluminum or glass filled polyester amplifier housings. We have also supplied 43 such transmitters directly to PSE&G.

The Bechtel technical specification applicable to this contract, 10855-J-301-(Q)-AC, contains normal operation and accident environments of 10 MRad gamma, 148 deg.F, 100% RH and 2 PSIG.

The Tobar Model 32-2 transmitters were fully tested per IEEE 323-1974 and IEEE 344-1975 in 1980*. However, the test units all had stainless steel amplifier housings, not polyester or aluminum. There was an earlier seismic test of these transmitters with polyester housings by Westinghouse Nuclear Energy Systems; the report is Westinghouse proprietary. There was also a later seismic only test, especially for Bechtel, of Tobar 32-2 transmitters with polyester housings**.

The current situation then is that, even though we believe that Tobar Model 32-2 transmitters with polyester and aluminum housings would successfully meet the normal and accident environment requirement of Bechtel 10855-J-305-(Q), Class B applications, Tobar does not have actual test data to substantiate this contention.

The reportable situation is that at the Hope Creek Station there are transmitters in applications which are not strictly supported by qualification test data. Tobar first learned of a possibly serious situation at Hope Creek via a letter from Bechtel on Tuesday, February 25, 1986. The concern was further identified in a phone conversation between Tobar and Bechtel personnel on Wednesday, February 26. The possibility of a reportable incident was confirmed in a 9:00 p.m. Wednesday phone call to the man who was the Westinghouse Engineering Manager at this site during the bulk of the Bechtel Hope Creek contract negotiations and review.

Tobar management reported a possible 10CFR21 reportable incident via phone to Dennis Allison, Chief of Events Analysis, USNRC, at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 1986.

The problem is currently in process of being corrected. Tobar shipped 13 stainless steel amplifier housing assemblies to PSE&G last Thursday, another 40 housings last Friday, and will complete the 107 housings ordered by PSE&G by Wednesday, March 5, 1986. Bechtel and PSE&G will, we are informed, install the steel housing on all of the

transmitters which are in the applicable accident condition environments. PSE&G has reportedly filed a 10CFR50.55E report detailing this situation and the resolution thereof.

Tobar has reviewed and recorded all shipments of Model 32-2 transmitters with polyester and/or aluminum amplifier housings to all other customers. This information is listed by customer, housing type, quantity, Tobar sales order number, and customer required environmental conditions.

The only other shipments of Model 32-2 transmitters with aluminum or polyester housings were on contracts requiring only seismic operability. The question of accumulated radiation level prior to the seismic event is still being studied on one order. Temperature and humidity specs on these orders were within normal operating range of 32-2 transmitters, i.e., required no environmental qualification.

Our preliminary conclusion is that polyester housings are completely adequate for all of these applications and no further action is required of Tobar on these contracts. We will pursue the contract technical review until we can state with certainty that this conclusion is valid.

*Qualification test results detailed in Tobar Qualification Test Report 5518A32.

**WAESD Report EL:2017 dated July 1983.



T. R. Fisher
President & General Manager
Tobar, Inc.

Dated: March 3, 1986