



May 23, 1986

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Attention: Mr. Alan Finkel
Reactor Engineering Plant Systems Section

Subject: ITE/Gould Disconnect Switch, Type 7860 HDS Series
Potential Failure Notification Pursuant to
Requirements of 10 CFR 21.21 (b)

Dear Mr. Finkel:

During inspection of returned defective Type 7860 HDS Disconnect Switches from commercial customers, it was found that under certain conditions of combined tolerancing, humidity and temperature, some of these devices could fail to close, preventing the associated circuits from being energized.

It is to be noted that these devices are used as isolating or disconnecting devices and, as such, are not directly utilized for manual or automatic start and stop operation of the associated load (motors, heaters...).

The number of devices in use at nuclear installations is approximately 1,500.

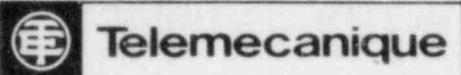
Since this product was obsoleted in July 1984, and it cannot be determined with precision to which extent each of the factors influence the potential nonperformance of the device, no modification of this, now obsolete, product is being considered.

Instructions for verification of proper operation of these devices are being incorporated in the individual notification of the potentially affected nuclear power station sites.

Although this product is now obsolete, equivalent switches, Class A81, are available from Telemecanique Inc. Additional qualification testing to IEEE 323 and 344 will have to be completed before these replacement devices, if needed, can be furnished to nuclear users.

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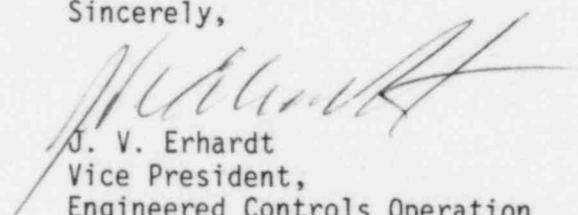
Fully qualified devices are expected to be available by September 1, 1986. As these switches are physically different from the Type 7860 HDS Switches, modification kits including mounting brackets, doors and hardware, will have to be tailored to each application.

The Type 7860 HDS Switches have been furnished to the following nuclear sites:

Taiwan Maanshan Nuclear Station	Gould/ITE SO #84-63296
Detroit Edison, Fermi II	Gould/ITE SO #84-12528
WPPSS - Unit II	Gould/ITE SO #84-78179
Carolina Power & Light/ Shearon Harris	Gould/ITE SO #84-60823-110
Illinois Power/Clinton	Gould/ITE SO #84-30115

The sites are being directly notified of the potential problem by first class mail.

Sincerely,



J. V. Erhardt
Vice President,
Engineered Controls Operation

JVE/nd

cc: T. Caputo, Telemecanique Inc.