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U-602952

4F.140

March 6, 1998

Docket No. 50-461

10CFR21.21

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: 10CFR21 Interim Report 21-98-001: ITT Barton Model
580A Series dP Indicating Switch Operating Force Concerns

Dear Madam or Sir:

On December 22, 1997, ITT Barton issued an Industry Advisory memo to Illinois Power (IP) identifying a condition potentially affecting ITT Barton models 580A, 581A, 583A, and 583B differential pressure indicating switches (DPIS) supplied with certification to IEEE-323/344 qualifications. ITT Barton has recently identified that the miniature switches used inside the indicated instruments may have operating forces too low to preclude switch contact chatter in some installations when subjected to seismic induced vibrations.

ITT Barton had originally certified that these switches would not experience contact chatter during seismic loadings of up to 12 Gs, as long as the force required to operate the internal miniature switches is high (i.e., between 76 and 95 grams). ITT Barton performs operating force selection testing where all switches with operating force between 76 and 95 grams are identified and marked with a blue paint spot. All remaining switches are marked with a yellow paint spot. ITT Barton discovered that their manufacturing system had allowed the yellow paint spot switches to be used along with the blue paint spot switches in assembly of models 580A, 581A, 583A, and 583B differential pressure indicating switches (DPIS) supplied with IEEE-323/344 certification to ITT Barton Qualification Reports R3-580A-9, R3-580A-10, R3-580A-29 or to Westinghouse with Certification to ITT Barton Baseline Documents 0580-11395, 0581-10325, and 0581-10225.

IP determined that this issue was potentially reportable under the provisions of 10CFR21 on January 7, 1998.

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Condition Report 1-98-01-056 was initiated to track investigation and resolution of this issue. IP's evaluation of this issue, under the provisions of 10CFR21, has not been completed. The evaluation of this issue will be completed by May 30, 1998.

Additional information about this issue may be obtained by contacting R. D. Weber, Supervisor-Procurement Engineering at (217) 935-8881, extension 3785.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne R. Weber for

Walter G. MacFarland, IV
Chief Nuclear Officer

RWF/krk

cc: NRC Clinton Licensing Project Manager
NRC Resident Office, V-690
Regional Administrator, Region III, USNRC
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INPO Records Center
ITT Barton