

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001

November 05, 2020

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 2020-03: RECALL OF MECHANICAL RATE OF RISE AND
FIXED-TEMPERATURE HEAT DETECTORS

ADDRESSEES

All holders of an operating license or construction permit for a nuclear power reactor under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, "Domestic licensing of production and utilization facilities," including those that have permanently ceased operations and have spent fuel in storage in the spent fuel pool.

All holders of an operating license or construction permit for a nonpower reactor (research reactor, test reactor, or critical assembly) under 10 CFR Part 50, including those that have permanently ceased operations and have spent fuel in storage at their facility.

All holders of and applicants for a power reactor early site permit, combined license, standard design certification, standard design approval, or manufacturing license under 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, certifications, and approvals for nuclear power plants."

All holders of and applicants for possession and use of byproduct material license 10 CFR Part 36, "Licenses and radiation safety requirements for irradiators."

All holders of, or applicants for, a fuel facility license under 10 CFR Part 40, "Domestic licensing of source material."

All holders of or applicants for a fuel cycle facility license under 10 CFR Part 70, "Domestic licensing of special nuclear material."

PURPOSE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this information notice (IN) to alert licensees about a recent fire protection equipment recall by the Edwards Fire Safety Company. The staff expects that recipients of this IN will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider taking actions as appropriate. However, suggestions contained in this IN are not NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recall notice, the Edwards Fire Safety Company recalled approximately 85,000 of its 280-Series, mechanical, 135-degrees-Fahrenheit rate of rise and fixed-temperature heat detectors sold nationwide between January 1979 and May 2018. The recalled heat detectors may fail to activate in response to rising temperatures when a fire is present, which means they may fail to activate fire alarms or a fire extinguishing system.

The official CPSC recall notice is available online at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/edwards-recalls-mechanical-heat-detectors-due-to-failure-to-alert-to-fire>.

BACKGROUND

NRC regulations require nuclear facilities to have a fire protection program to assure public health and safety. These programs describe features necessary for fire protection, such as fire prevention, detection, and suppression. The purpose of the fire protection program is to minimize the probability and effects of fires.

Fire-protection equipment reliability and performance capabilities are a primary feature of defense in depth and must be maintained to achieve effectiveness in preventing fire damage to structures, systems, and components. The recalled fire protection equipment discussed in this IN may not be able to perform its intended function.

DISCUSSION

The NRC is currently unaware of any issues at licensed facilities involving the recalled heat detectors. The NRC is using this IN to heighten awareness and inform licensees of this potential issue.

Recalled fire protection equipment such as the heat detectors listed above, if used in a nuclear facility, may prevent or inhibit fire protection measures that are important to worker, facility, and public safety.

CONTACT

This IN does not require any specific action or written response. Please direct any questions about this matter to the technical contacts listed below or to the appropriate NRC project manager.

/RA/

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Note: NRC generic communications may be found on the NRC public Web site, <https://www.nrc.gov>, under NRC Library.

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 2020-03, "RECALL OF MECHANICAL RATE OF RISE AND
FIXED-TEMPERATURE HEAT DETECTORS," DATE: November 5, 2020

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*via e-mail

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