

CC: Minneapolis EUFS - D. Sommers
CC: Orlando JC250 GTSD - C. W. Meck



Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

June 25, 1987

3501 So Highway 100
Minneapolis Minnesota 55418
612 927 2323

CUSTOMER ADVISORY LETTER 87-02

J. Petersons
Northern States Power Company
A. S. King Station
Oak Park Heights
Stillwater, MN 55082

Subject: CAL 87-02 - Gaskets for Steam Turbine Generator Applications

Installation of non-asbestos gaskets as substitutes for asbestos gaskets in certain steam turbine generator applications has results in forced outages, increased maintenance resulting from leaks at gasketed joints, and degradation of unit operating performance.

While the literature relative to non-asbestos gaskets may imply that certain materials are suitable substitutes for asbestos gaskets in a steam turbine operating environment, our service experience fails to demonstrate to us that the materials are adequate substitutes.

Over the past several years, Westinghouse has evaluated non-asbestos gaskets in steam turbine operating environments. Our experience indicates that certain non-asbestos gaskets are not reliable when the temperature of the environment is in excess of 200°F.

Westinghouse has discontinued the use of non-asbestos gaskets for steam turbine application in environments of 200°F or greater. We are currently using asbestos gaskets for certain high temperature steam turbine applications until such time as a suitable alternative material can be qualified and it's operating safety and reliability demonstrated.

At this time neither the Environmental Protection Agency nor the Occupational Safety & Health Agency prohibit the use of asbestos gasket materials provided the safety procedures specified in 29 CFR Part 1910 ("Occupational Exposure to Asbestos") and 29 CFR Part 1910.1200 ("Hazard Communication Standard") are adhered to.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The information furnished in this Customer Advisory Letter is offered to you by Westinghouse Electric Corporation in connection with the ongoing sale of units with your organization. However, since the operation of your plant involves many factors not within our knowledge, and since approval of the plant's ultimate responsibility for its continuing successful operation rests with you, Westinghouse Electric Corporation expressly disclaims any responsibility for damages of any type, i.e., direct, consequential, compensatory or special that may be alleged to have been suffered as a result of applying or whether it is claimed that Westinghouse is strictly liable, in breach of contract, breach of warranty, negligence, or is in other respects responsible for damages by your organization as a result of applying this information.



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asbestos gaskets are recommended for steam turbine applications where the temperature of the operating environment is in excess of 200°F. If you are using non-asbestos gaskets in these applications, replacement with asbestos gaskets is recommended at the next available opportunity. When a suitable replacement for asbestos gaskets has been qualified, you will be advised.

If you have any questions regarding the applicable gaskets for your applications or if further clarification is desired, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A copy of this letter is attached. Please acknowledge receipt of this information in the space provided and return the copy to us for our files.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Johnson
Technical Service Manager
Minneapolis E.S.S.D.

RMJ:lr

Attachment:

CC: D. Youngdahl
Northern States Power Co.
414 Nicollet St.
Mpls., MN 55401

CC: S. Fehn
Northern States Power Co.
2700 Marshall St. N.E.
Mpls., MN 55412
Attn: Overhaul Services

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