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MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURE ANALYSIS FOR  
DETERMINING OPERATIONAL READINESS OF  
MOTOR-OPERATED VALVES (MOVs)\*

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Abstract

Motor current signature analysis (MCSA) is a novel diagnostic process for condition monitoring of electric-motor-driven mechanical equipment (e.g., pumps, motor-operated valves, compressors, and processing machinery). The MCSA process identifies, characterizes, and trends over time the instantaneous load variations of mechanical equipment in order to diagnose changes in the condition of the equipment (e.g., due to degradation or service wear), which, if allowed to continue, may lead to failure. It monitors the instantaneous variations (noise content) in the electric current flowing through the power leads to the electric motor that drives the equipment. The motor itself thereby acts as a transducer, sensing both large and small, long-term and rapid, mechanical load variations and converting them to variations in the induced current generated in the motor windings. This motor current noise signature is detected, amplified, and further processed as needed to examine its time domain and frequency domain (spectral) characteristics.

The operational principles of MCSA and the nonintrusive data collection apparatus and procedure used with MOVs will be described. Data collected from MOVs in both laboratory and in-plant environments will also be shown to illustrate the ability of MCSA to "see" the detailed inner workings of the valve and operator and thus to detect degraded performance at an incipient stage.

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**Motor Current Signature Analysis for  
Determining Operational Readiness of  
Motor-Operated Valves (MOVs)**

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# **THIS PRESENTATION WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING TOPICS :**

- **NPAR PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**
- **MOTOR-OPERATED VALVE (MOV) OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS STUDIED**
- **EQUIPMENT USED AND TEST METHOD**
- **LABORATORY TEST RESULTS**
- **NUCLEAR PLANT MOV TEST RESULTS**
- **MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURE ANALYSIS (MCSA) BENEFITS AND APPLICATIONS**

# **THE NUCLEAR PLANT AGING RESEARCH (NPAR) PROGRAM APPROACH CONSISTS OF THREE MAJOR WORK PHASES**

- PHASE I**
- **COMPILING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SELECTED COMPONENTS OR SYSTEMS**
  - **IDENTIFYING PARAMETERS POTENTIALLY USEFUL FOR DETECTING AND TRENDING DEGRADATIONS**
- PHASE II**
- **PERFORMING IN-SITU EVALUATIONS OF AGED EQUIPMENT**
  - **EVALUATING DIAGNOSTIC MONITORING TECHNIQUES**
  - **PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC INSPECTION AND CONDITION MONITORING PRACTICES**
- PHASE III**
- **DISSEMINATING AND APPLYING RESULTS**

# **EIGHT MOTOR-OPERATED VALVE OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS WERE EVALUATED FOR THEIR CONDITION MONITORING ABILITIES**

## **PARAMETERS STUDIED**

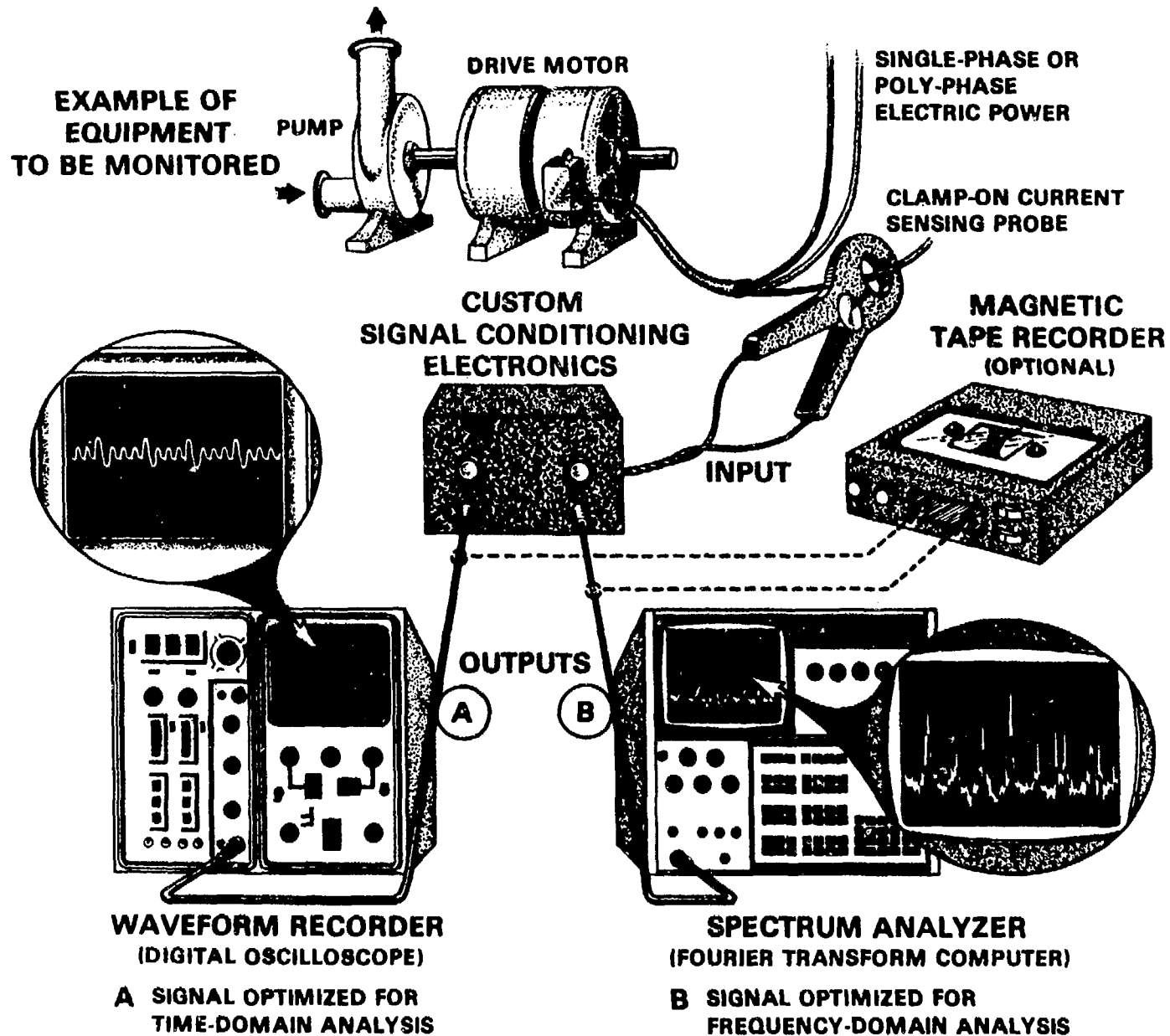
- 1. MOTOR CURRENT**
- 2. VALVE STEM POSITION**
- 3. VALVE STEM VELOCITY**
- 4. VALVE STEM STRAIN**
- 5. TORQUE AND LIMIT  
SWITCH ACTUATIONS**
- 6. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL  
MOTOR TEMPERATURES**
- 7. VIBRATION**
- 8. TORQUE SWITCH POSITION**

## **EQUIPMENT USED**

**MCSA EQUIPMENT**  
**LVDT**  
**LINEAR VELOCITY TRANSDUCER**  
**STEM-MOUNTED STRAIN GAGE**  
**CIRCUIT CONTINUITY**

**THERMOCOUPLES**

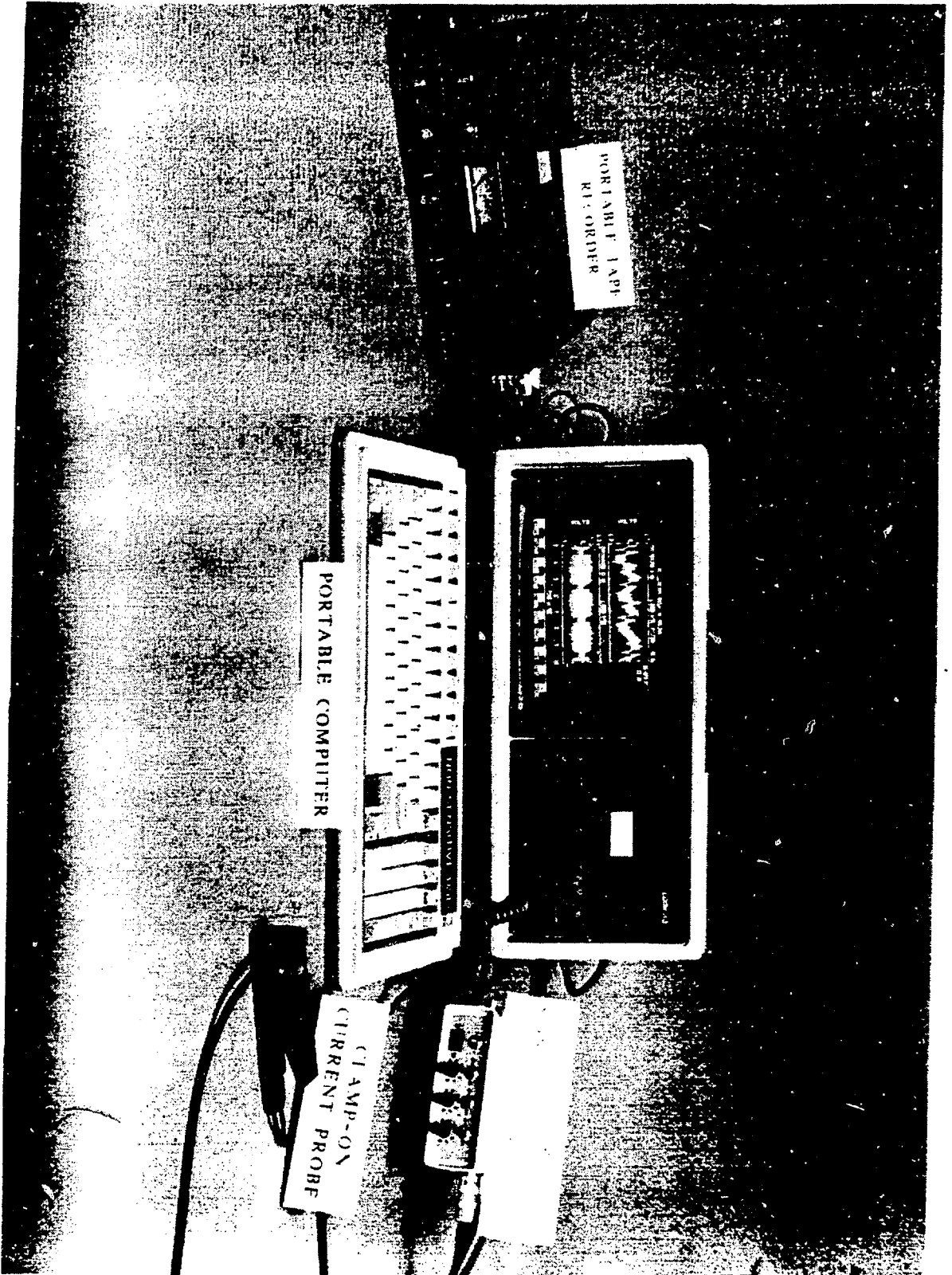
**ACCELEROMETERS**  
**ANGULAR DISPLACEMENT TRANSDUCER**



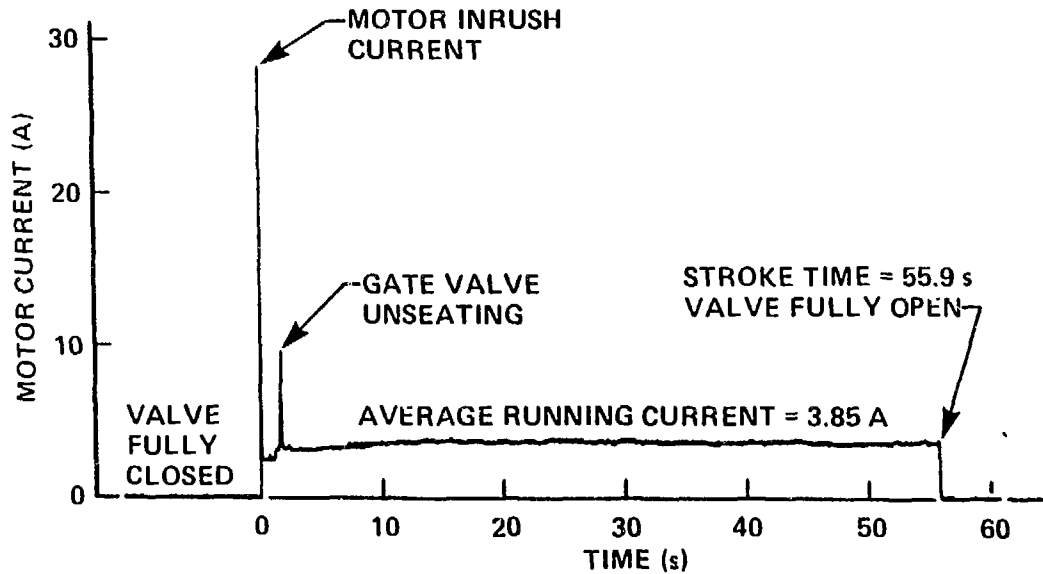
PORTABLE LAPD  
RF: ORDR

PORTABLE COMPUTER

CLAMP-ON  
CURRENT PROBE



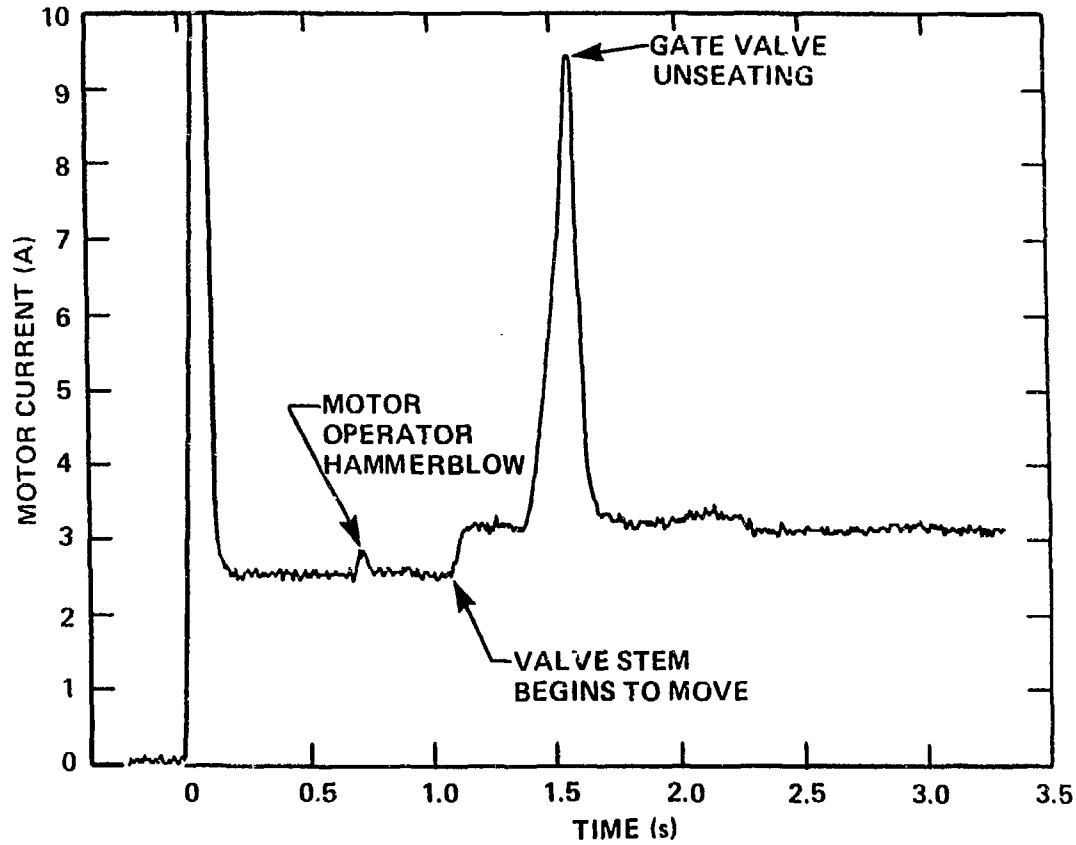
# A MOTOR-OPERATED VALVE STROKE CAN BE CHARACTERIZED BY A MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURE



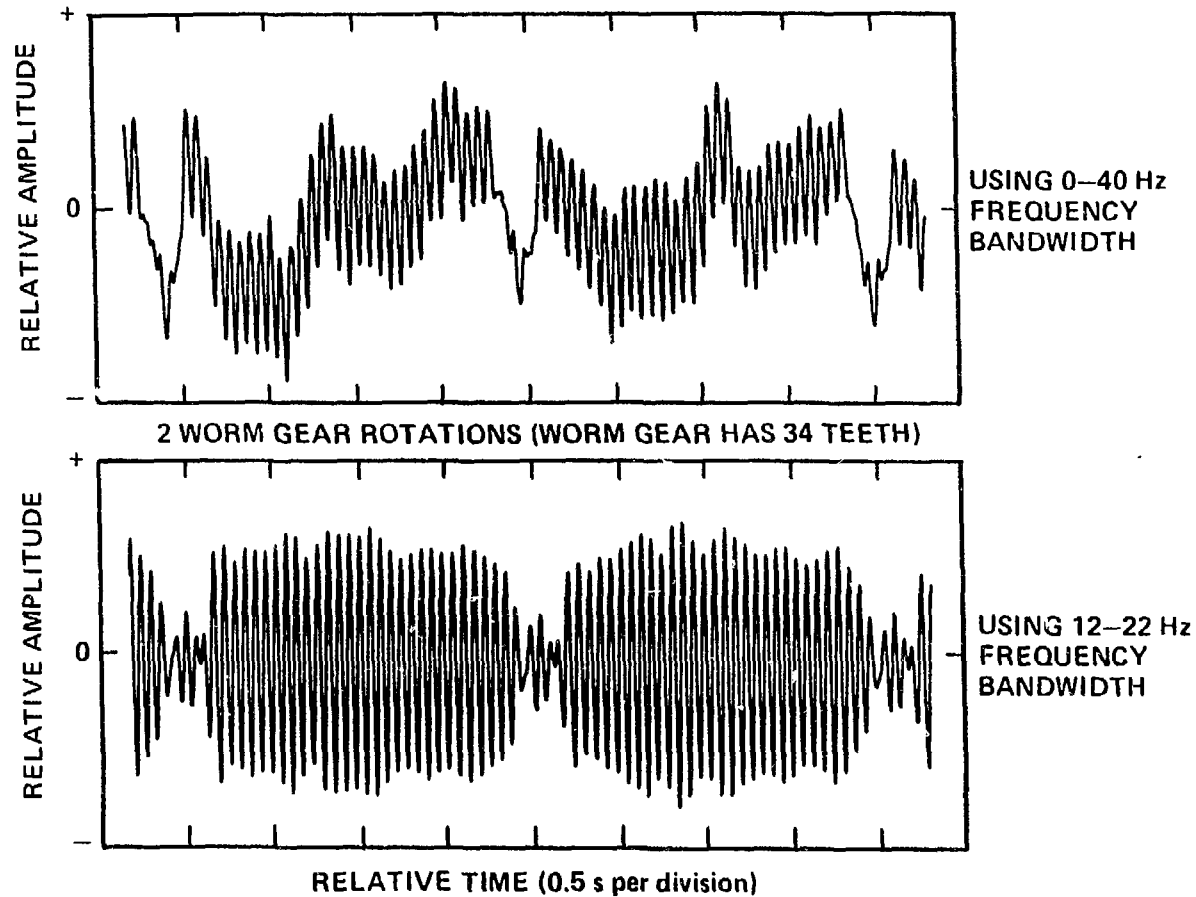
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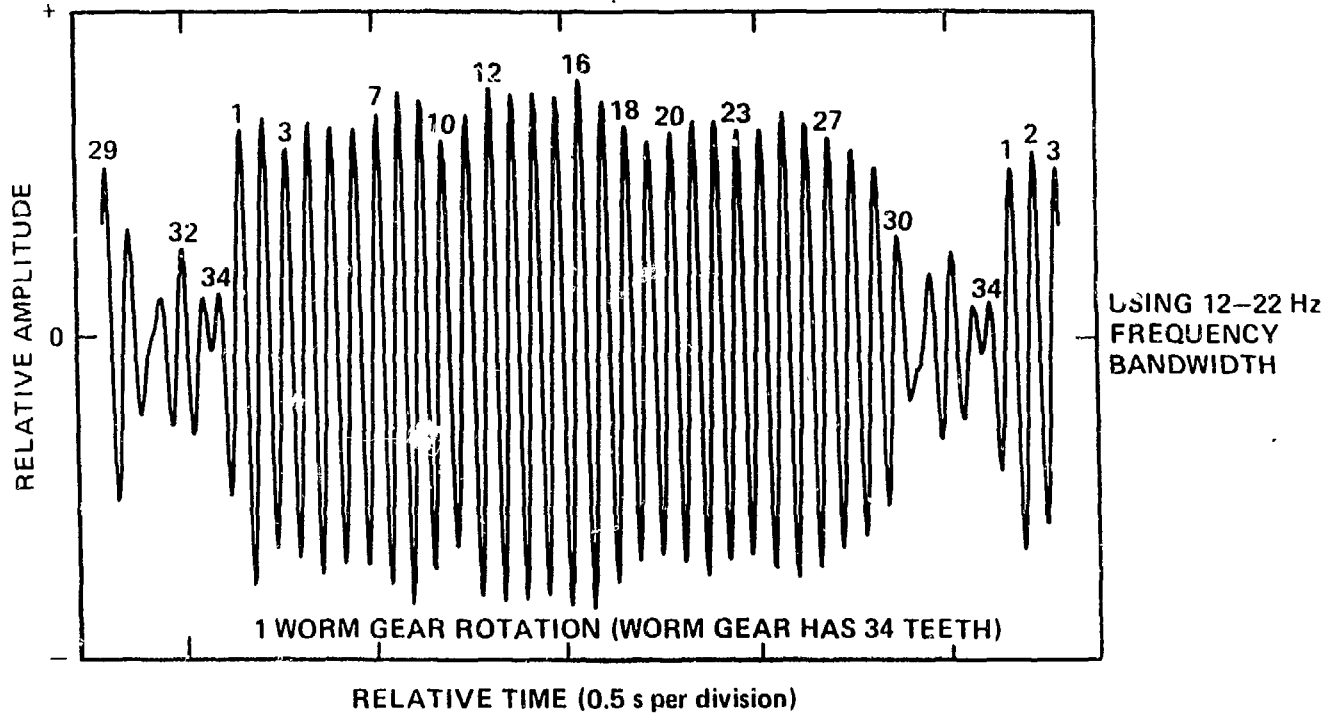
# MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURES CAN BE USED TO IDENTIFY TRANSIENT EVENTS WITHIN THE VALVE AND OPERATOR



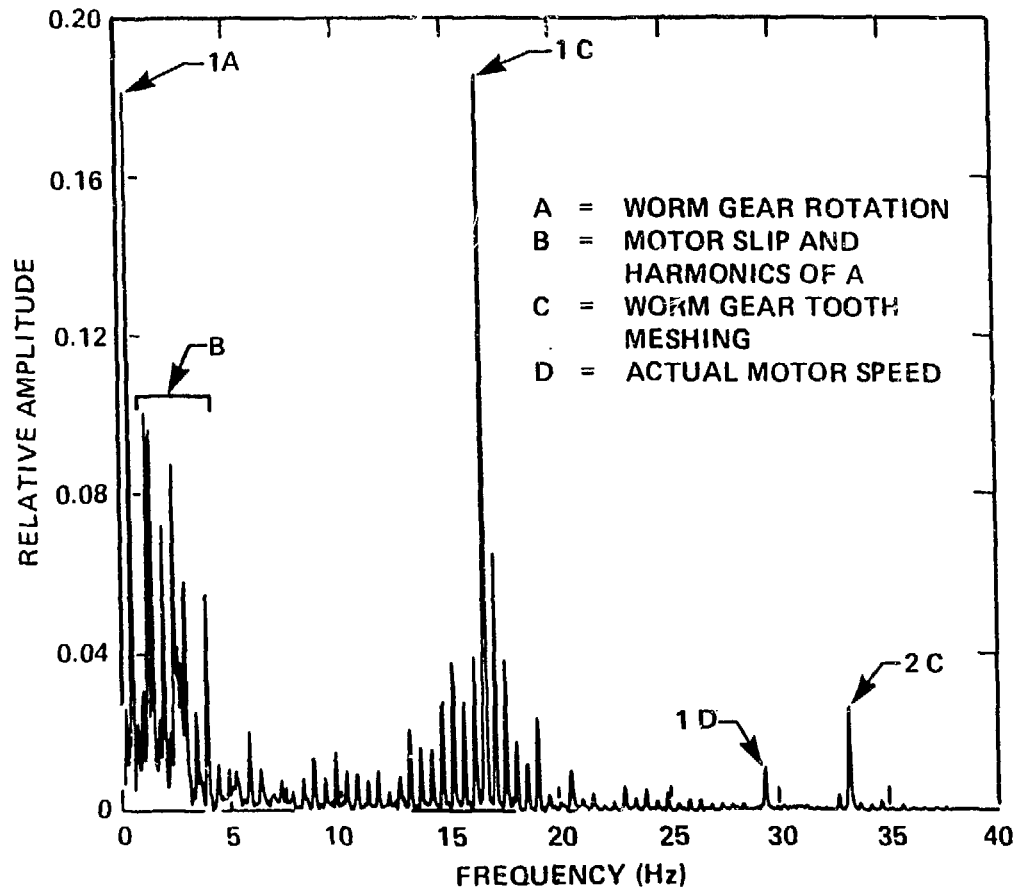
# PERIODIC WAVEFORMS OBSERVED IN MOV MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURES ARE INDICATIVE OF CYCLIC LOAD VARIATIONS WITHIN THE MOTOR OPERATOR



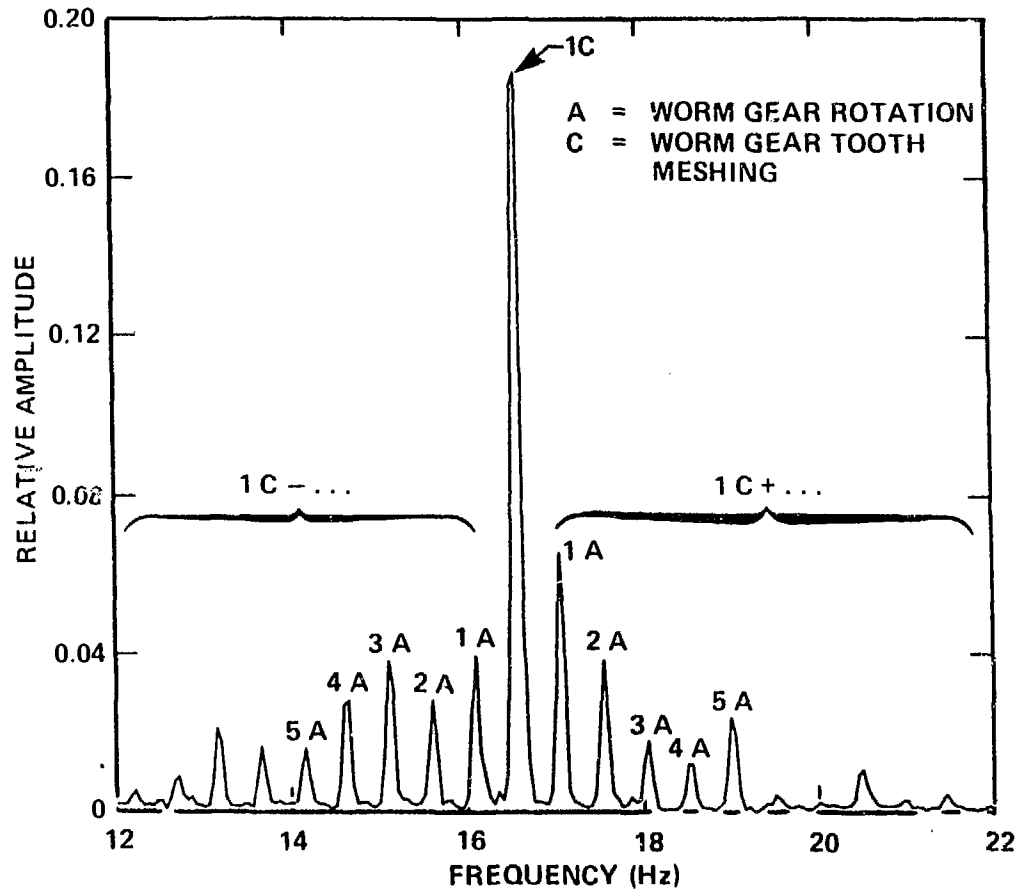
# MOV MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURES PROVIDE HIGHLY DETAILED INFORMATION SUCH AS WORM GEAR TOOTH MESHING ON A TOOTH-BY-TOOTH BASIS



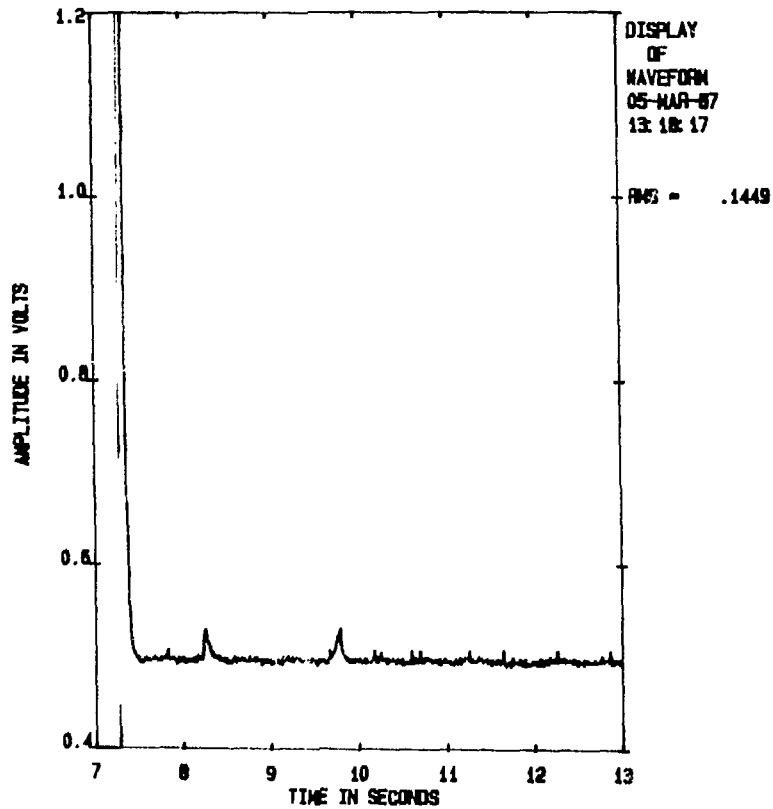
# MOTOR CURRENT FREQUENCY SPECTRUM ANALYSIS PROVIDES A NOVEL MEANS TO REVEAL ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF PERIODIC PHENOMENA OCCURRING WITHIN THE MOTOR AND GEAR TRAIN



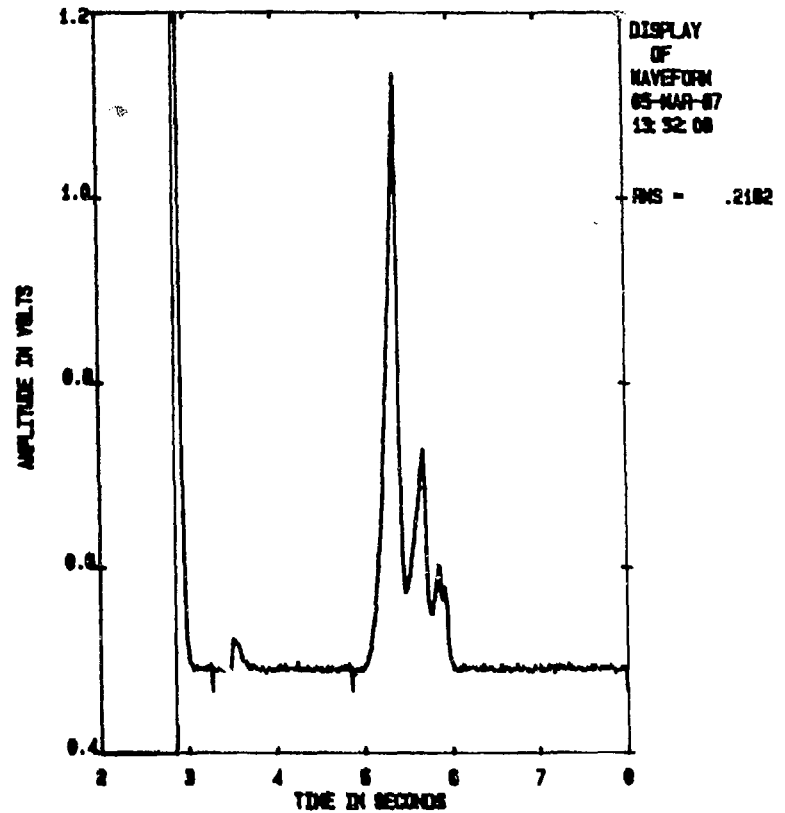
# A NARROW-BAND FREQUENCY ANALYSIS OF A MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURE CAN REVEAL SIDEBAND FREQUENCIES INDICATIVE OF GEAR ECCENTRICITY AND/OR WEAR



**TWO SIMILAR 16-in NUCLEAR PLANT GATE VALVES  
EXHIBITED DIFFERENT UNSEATING CHARACTERISTICS**  
*(data acquired at motor control center)*

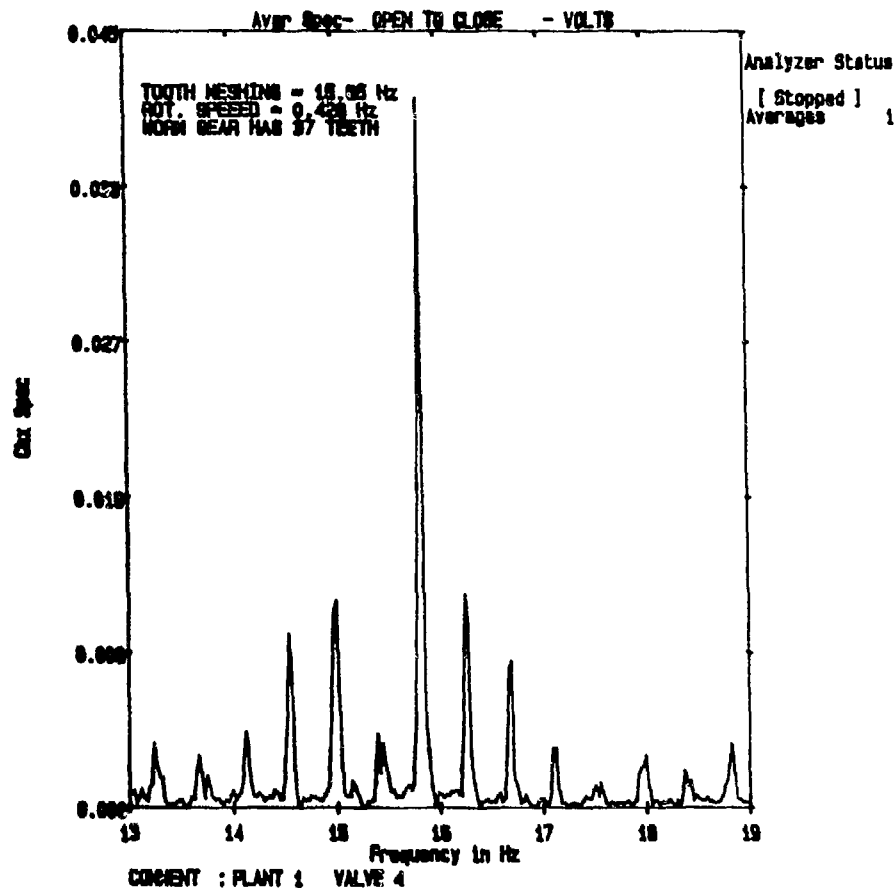
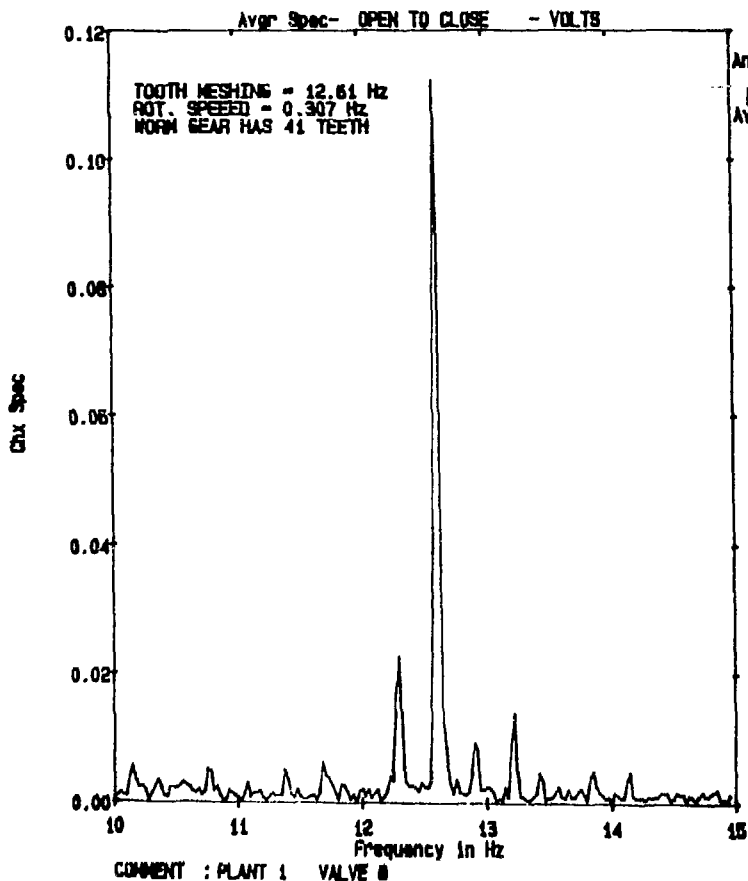


Data Label: PLANT 1 VALVE 6

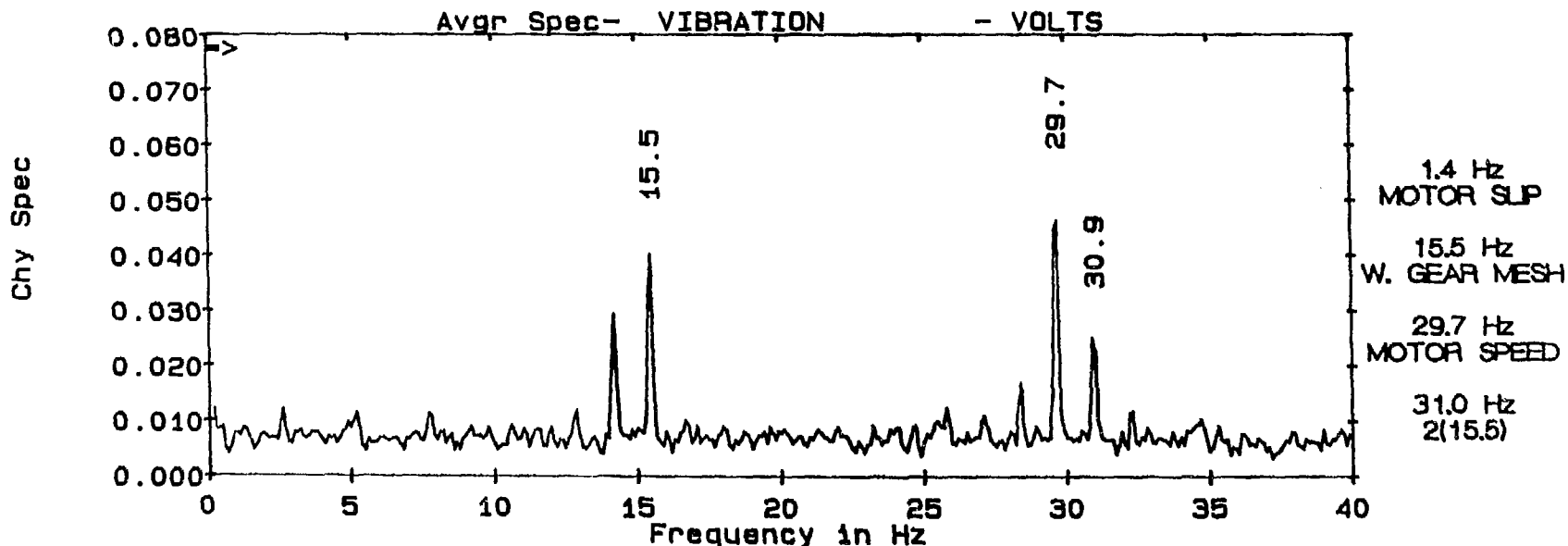
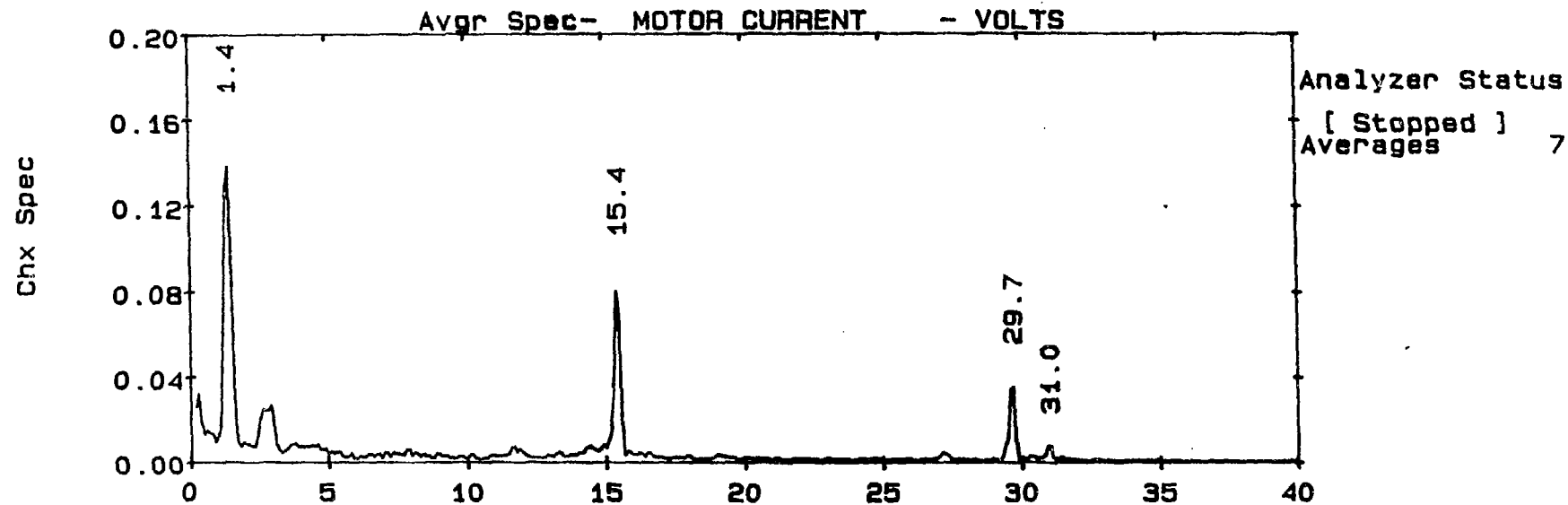


Data Label: PLANT 1 VALVE 7

**NUCLEAR PLANT MOV TEST DATA HAVE REVEALED ROTATIONAL SIDEBAND  
AND TOOTH MESHING FREQUENCIES RELATED TO WORM GEAR CONDITION**  
*(data acquired at motor control center)*



# MOV MOTOR CURRENT AND ACCELEROMETER SPECTRA PRESENT COMPARABLE INFORMATION



COMMENT : ORNL MOV100 open to close stroke



# **MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURE ANALYSIS OFFERS NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR ASCERTAINING OPERATIONAL READINESS OF MOTOR-OPERATED VALVES**

- **NONINTRUSIVE MONITORING AT A REMOTE LOCATION (MCG)**
- **PROVIDES AGING AND DIAGNOSTIC INFORMATION COMPARIBLE TO CONVENTIONAL INSTRUMENTATION (e.g. accelerometers) BUT WITHOUT ATTENDANT DISADVANTAGES**
- **MEASUREMENTS CAN BE PERFORMED RAPIDLY BY RELATIVELY UNSKILLED PERSONNEL USING PORTABLE, INEXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT**
- **HIGH SENSITIVITY AND SELECTIVITY TO A VARIETY OF MECHANICAL DISORDERS AFFECTING OPERATIONAL READINESS**

**MOTOR CURRENT SIGNATURE ANALYSIS  
HAS POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS IN MANY  
AREAS ... for example:**

- **ON-LINE MONITORING OF INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT**

- Motor-driven compressors and pumps**

- Rolling mill stands**

- Mixers and crushers**

- Fans and blowers**

- **PRODUCTION LINE TESTING OF MOTOR-DRIVEN APPLIANCES**

- Refrigerators and heat pumps**

- Washing machines**

- Tape/disk players**

# **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

## ***Technical Details***

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## ***Commercialization Interests***

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***MARTIN MARIETTA ENERGY SYSTEMS , INC.***