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PRIORITY ATTENTION REQUIRED MORNING REPORT - REGION III DECFMBER 9, 1992

Licensee/Facility

Commonwealth Edison Co  
Dresden 2 3  
Morris, Illinois  
Dockets: 50-237.50-249  
BWR/GE-3, BWR/GE-3

Notification:

MR Number 3-92-0344  
Date 12/08/92  
VIA RI

Subject: INCORRECT HEAT REMOVAL COEFFICIENT USED ON BWR PERFEX ESSENTIAL  
CONTAINMENT HEAT REMOVAL HEAT EXCHANGERS

Reportable Event Number: N/A

Discussion:

General Electric Company recently completed a new, more complete Dresden Containment Heat Removal analysis using an ANSI/ANS 5.1 model and a corrected heat exchanger heat transfer coefficient. The analysis indicates that post-accident peak suppression pool temperatures are in excess of the design basis under certain conditions utilizing the Perfex heat exchangers. Early this year (April), the NRC had identified the use of a nonconservative overall heat transfer coefficient in the essential containment cooling heat exchanger calculation. The licensee concluded interim operability based on a comparison with a less conserving ANSI/ANS 5.1 (1979) model which had been accepted by the NRC at other facilities. The nonconservative heat transfer coefficient may affect the heat exchange duty at other sites utilizing Perfex heat exchangers. The error may also affect the ECCS net positive suction head calculations at Dresden and at other facilities under certain conditions. In the short term, there does not appear to be an operability issue at Dresden due to the ambient conditions.

Regional Action:

The resident and regional inspectors are continuing to review the containment heat removal analysis and ECCS net positive suction head calculations for the Dresden facility. Details will be provided to the Vendor Inspection Branch as input for a planned future inspection.

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