

APR 1 1977

Docket No. 50-305

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
ATTN: Mr. E. W. James
Senior Vice President
Post Office Box 1200
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305

Gentlemen:

RE: KEWAUNEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

A pressure transient recently occurred at an operating PWR facility when a reactor coolant pump (RCP) was started while in a water-solid condition. At the time, the temperature of the steam generator in that loop was greater than the reactor coolant system (RCS) temperature and a pressure transient from about 400 psig to about 800 psig resulted.

In our January 10, 1977 letter we stated that all PWR licensees should include provisions to prevent RCP starts while in a water-solid condition. The purpose of such provisions is to prevent pressure transients due to temperature differentials within the RCS. We also stated that should it become necessary to start a RCP while water-solid, appropriate steps are to be taken to determine and minimize the temperature profile. Such action was not taken prior to the recently reported event.

Based on this recent pressure transient and our review of PWR submittals describing RCP operating procedures, we are concerned that the significance of this event may not be fully realized.

We, therefore, now request that you implement procedures to prevent RCP starts (or "jogs") while in a water-solid condition when the steam generator temperature is greater than RCS temperature. In the event that a RCP start while water-solid cannot be avoided we request that your plant operating procedures include non-optional pre-requisite steps to ensure that the RCS temperature profile is determined and if that profile is excessive, that appropriate measures are specified to achieve an acceptable profile prior to starting a RCP.

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We further request that these procedures be implemented immediately, and that they remain in effect until we have received and approved an analysis justifying any deviations from these provisions. You are requested to advise us within 15 days of receipt of this letter that you have implemented the provisions discussed above.

In addition, it is strongly recommended that you immediately conduct a critical review of your procedures to ensure that they are fully responsive to all of the positions stated in our letter of January 10, 1977 and compatible with the pertinent results of your RCS pressure response analysis.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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April 1, 1977

cc: Steven E. Keane, Esquire
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