DR Central File

SEP 9 1974

NOTE TO H. D. THORNBURG

WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION'S ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE REPORT DATED MAY 3, 1974 - DIESEL GENERATOR 1A FAILURE TO START AT KEWAUNEE STATION DOCKET NO. 50-305

This memo is in answer to your request[1/] for our assessment of the possible generic implications of the above diesel generator (DG) problem. In brief, the licensee attributes the cause for failure to start to a deficiency in the operation (selection) of a manually operated three position (Auto-Off-Manual) control switch that is located on each local control panel of the two DGs employed at the Kewaunee Station. In this instance, the control switch was found in a "rest" position between the Auto and Off positions thereby preventing the unit from responding to an auto-start signal as required. Furthermore, it was discovered that the companion control switch used with the redundant DG was also susceptible to the same deficiency. The licensee's long term corrective actions include replacement of the faulty switches with a type considered more suitable for the application.

Based on our review of the licensee's report of this problem, the RO:III inspection report 2/, Mr. D. D. Comey's letter 3/ and our discussions with the distributor for the GM diesel generator, Western Engine Corporation, we have determined that:

1. The faulty switch which is identified in both the licensee's report and Mr. Comey's letter as J. P. Simmon Part Number 10250T4023 is in fact a three position, maintain-contact switch identified as Number 10250T4023, manufactured by Cutler-Hammer.

2. The switch in question has been used only on Western Engine supplied GM DG units. And, in this regard, Western Engine reports that they have supplied eight units to nuclear generating stations. Dresden Units 1 and 2 have three units as do Quad Cities Units 1 and 2. Kewaunee station employes the remaining two units. It is significant to note that the six DG units installed at the Dresden and Quad Cities facilities do not use the Cutler-Hammer switch. GE Electromotive Division supplied the local control panels at these two facilities and have stated that they do not use the type switch in question in their panel design.

1/ Action Request Form #F30015HO dated 9-11-74.

2/ ~~Letter, Comey to Knuth dated 8-27-74.~~

3/ Letter, Jordan (RO:III) to Thornburg dated 7-11-74, Wisconsin Public Service (Kewaunee) Inspection Report No. 50-305/74-10.

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With respect to the generic implication, the local control panels for the DG units at Kewaunee Station were supplied by the distributer of the DG units, Western Engine Corporation. Discussion with Western Engine Corporation representatives revealed that the Kewaunee facility is the only nuclear power plant using the Cutler-Hammer switches for DG unit control.

Based on these findings, we believe that the problem is not a concern at other nuclear power plants and that the generic implications are limited to the Kewaunee Station. We recommend that neither a response bulletin nor a information letter be issued to other facilities on this matter. We do recommend that the regional inspectors, during future site inspections, determine whether or not the described Cutler-Hammer switch is used in other safety related systems. If so, an evaluation of that application should be initiated immediately.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Vince Thomas on Extension 7421.

Original signed by
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