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Ltr re Abnormal Occurrence concerning failure of two electrically driven pumps to start from manual initiation until the third attempt.

ACKNOWLEDGED

DO NOT REMOVE

-10-74

ehi

PLANT NAME: Kewaunee

	FOR ACTION/INFORMATION 9-			
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P.O. Box 1200, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305

Mr. J. F. O'Leary, Director Directorate of Licensing Office of Regulation U. S. Atomic Energy Commission Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

Subject: Docket 50-305

Operating License DPR-43

Unusual Event

Auxiliary Feedwater Pumps



In accordance with the requirements of Technical Specifications, paragraph 6.6.2.b.2, we submit the following:

Introduction

The Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant employs three auxiliary feedwater pumps, two are electrically driven and the third is steam driven. The auxiliary feedwater system is an engineered safeguards system and is required to be tested periodically in accordance with the requirements of the Technical Specifications, Section 4.8. The operability of each pump is required to be demonstrated monthly during power operation. This is being accomplished under an approved surveillance test procedure.

The auxiliary feedwater pumps start automatically on any of the following signals:

Motor-Driven Pumps

- a. Safety Injection
- b. Blackout
- c. Low-low level (2/3) in either steam generator starts both pumps
- d. Opening of both feedwater pump circuit breakers

Turbine-Driven Pump

- a. Low-low level in both steam generators
- b. Loss of voltage on both 4 KV buses

All three pumps have manual start capability.

Problem

During the monthly surveillance test of the two electrically driven pumps, it was discovered that the pumps did not start from manual initiation until the third attempt. To better understand the problem, the operation of the pumps is described as follows:

During "Manual" start, the operator turns the control switch to "Start" which in turn starts the auxiliary oil pump. When the oil pump has been energized for at least 10 seconds and the oil pressure reaches a set value, a pressure switch closes to energize the start circuit for the auxiliary feedwater pumps. The operator had been turning the switch to "Start," verified that the auxiliary oil pump started, then allowed the switch to spring return to "Auto." This did not allow the oil pressure to reach the value required to start the auxiliary feedwater pumps. It should be noted that during automatic start of the pumps, this condition would not occur since the start signal noted above would remain in the circuit until the condition was cleared, which would exceed the approximate 10 seconds required to raise the oil pressure to the value required to start the auxiliary feedwater pumps.

Corrective Action

To provide assurance that this condition would not re-occur, an extensive investigation was made to determine the cause of the pumps not starting and to determine the proper corrective action that should be taken. The pumps were subjected to several manual start operations and observations made of the various parameters. In addition to the control switch operation noted above, it was discovered that the level of the oil reservoir should be operated at a higher value. When the pump started, the oil level fell below the elevation of the pump suction and air was drawn into the lubrication system causing partial loss of pump suction. Partial loss of suction tended to increase the time required to reach the preset pressure.

To assure that correct oil levels are maintained in the oil reservoir, level gauges are being marked to quickly denote the correct oil levels that have to be maintained. In addition the procedures are being revised to provide assurance that oil levels are checked and during manual start of the pumps, the operator verify full start capability of the pumps prior to release of the switch.

Sincerely,

E. W. James, Senior Vice President Power Generation & Engineering

EWJ:sna

cc - Mr. James G. Keppler, US AEC - Region III Mr. Dwane Boyd, US AEC - Res. Insp. Region III