WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION



P.O. Box 1200, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54305

March 16, 1979

Mr. J. G. Keppler, Regional Director Office of Inspection & Enforcement Region III U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 799 Roosevelt Road Glen Ellyn IL 60137

Dear Mr. Keppler:

Docket 50-305 Operating License DPR-43 Reportable Occurrence LER 79-004/03L-0

In accordance with the requirements of Technical Specifications, Section 6.9, the attached Licensee Event Report for reportable occurrence LER 79-004/03L-0 is being submitted.

Very truly yours,

E. R. Mathews Vice President

Power Supply & Engineering

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Attach.

cc: Dir, Office of Inspection & Enforcement
US NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555
Dir, Office of Mgt Info & Program Control
US NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555

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ATTACHMENT TO LER 79-004/03L-0

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant Docket 50-305 Operating License DPR-43

Event Description

During steady full power operation D/G 1A failed to start during an operability test due to a failure of the air start motors. This placed the facility under LCO TS 3.7.b.2 and D/G 1B was tested as required to assure operability. Repairs to D/G 1A were completed and the D/G was tested and returned to service within the time interval specified by TS. During follow-up investigation, the air start motors on D/G 1B were inspected and needed refurbishment was performed. Since one D/G and off-site power remained available for the duration of this occurrence there was no effect on plant operation or public safety.

Cause Description and Corrective Actions

The rotor of the primary air start motor for D/G lA failed such that a piece of a vane jammed the motor. Since this condition still permitted air flow through the motor, a signal was not initiated by the control logic to activate the secondary air start motor. The air start motors for D/G lA were replaced and the D/G was tested and returned to service. Inspection of the air motors for D/G lB indicated signs of wear and needed refurbishment was performed. The D/G lA primary air start motor internals were found to be rusted. Moisture in the D/G startup air supply is believed to have contributed to this failure. Operations procedures have been revised to decrease the time interval between blow downs of the D/G startup air receivers to once daily with the intent of minimizing the startup air moisture content. The appropriate PM procedures will be revised to include inspection of the air start motor internals on a frequency intended to prevent future failures of this type.