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November 13, 1978

Mr. T. A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors - Branch 3
Division of Operating Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Dresden Station Units 2 & 3
Control Rod Drive Uncoupling Program
NRC Docket Nos. 50-237 and 50-249

Reference (a): M. S. Turbak letter to D. K. Davis
dated May 10, 1977

Dear Mr. Ippolito:

Reference (a) described the Dresden Station Units 2 & 3 control rod drive (CRD) uncoupling program. At the time of that transmittal, CRDs that experienced uncoupling in 1976 and 1977 had not been removed and inspected. This letter serves to update that information.

During Dresden Unit 2 Cycle 5 operations (May 22, 1976 thru December 11, 1977) a total of six (6) CRDs experienced uncoupling problems. The historical data is listed in Attachment I. Prior to the start of Cycle 6 operation each of the six (6) CRDs was disassembled and inspected per procedure. To assure a comprehensive inspection, a special detailed inspection procedure was generated as described in reference (a).

Upon inspection, it was found that the inner filter was unlatched in five (5) of the six (6) CRDs examined. The inner filter associated with the sixth CRD was latched. However, the inner filter retaining ring was bowed apart and galled which indicates that the inner filter was relatched during the re-coupling process at reactor power. In addition, the distance between the CRD flange and the end of the fully seated uncoupling rod was abnormally long in each case. The abnormal length coupled with an unlatched inner filter resulted in the uncoupling of the CRDs during normal reactor operating conditions.

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Mr. T. A. Ippolito:

- 2 -

November 13, 1978

As part of the reassembly procedure, Quality Control personnel performed the inner filter installation and the required 20-30 pound pull test as prescribed in Reference (a). In February 1978, the control rod drive inspection and maintenance procedure was changed to permit maintenance personnel to install the inner filter. This change occurred due to previously existing management - union work agreements. However, Quality Control personnel will still verify proper installation of the inner filter and continue to conduct the 20-30 pound pull test. The revised procedure coupled with improved Quality Control coverage of CRD overhaul and reassembly are believed adequate to prevent future CRD uncoupling.

One (1) signed original and thirty-nine (39) copies of this letter are provided for your use.

Very truly yours,



M. S. Turbak
Nuclear Licensing Administrator
Boiling Water Reactors

attachment

ATTACHMENT I

<u>CRD</u>	<u>REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE UNCOUPLED</u>	<u>DATE LAST OVERHAULED*</u>
F-5	50-237-76-68	12/12/76	Jan. 1975
J-11	50-237-76-72	12/28/76	Jan. 1975
H-8	50-237-77-14	4/2/77	Jan. 1975
L-5	50-237-77-15	4/2/77	Jan. 1975
L-5	50-237-77-22	6/5/77	Jan. 1975
F-5	50-237-77-29	8/2/77	Jan. 1975
H-7	50-237-77-29	8/2/77	Jan. 1975
H-5	50-237-77-54	11/2/77	Jan. 1975

*20-30 pound pull test requirement initiated in May of 1975.

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L-5	50-237-77-15	4/2/77	Jan. 1975
L-5	50-237-77-22	6/5/77	Jan. 1975
F-5	50-237-77-29	8/2/77	Jan. 1975
H-7	50-237-77-29	8/2/77	Jan. 1975
H-5	50-237-77-54	11/2/77	Jan. 1975

*20-30 pound pull test requirement initiated in May of 1975.