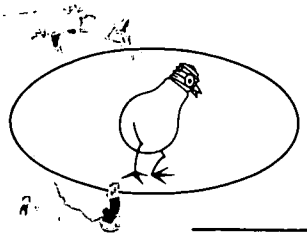

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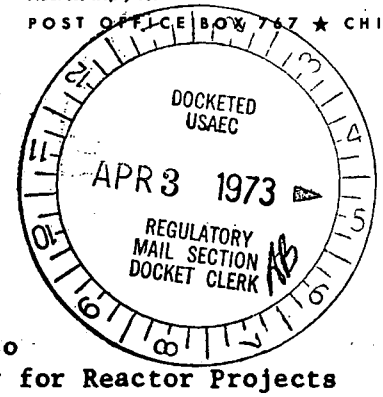
Commonwealth Edison Company

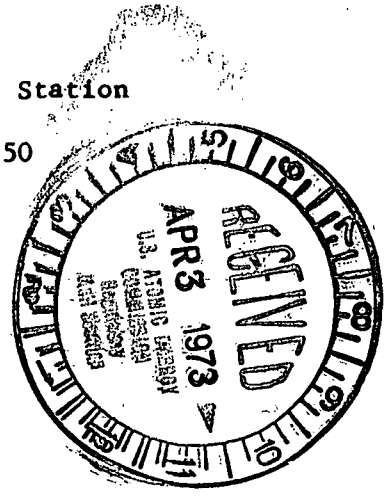
72 WEST ADAMS STREET ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Address Reply to:
POST OFFICE BOX 767 ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690



WPW Ltr.#253-73

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
March 30, 1973



Mr. A. Giambusso
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR 19-25, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3, SECTION 6.6.B.3 OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

This is to report a condition relating to the operation of the station in which on March 21 and 23, 1973, Radwaste above ground storage tanks were found to contain 4.05, and 1.00 curies respectively, which exceeds the Technical Specification limit as stated in Section 3.8.D.

PROBLEM AND INVESTIGATION

The following circumstances led to the "C" Waste Sample Tank content of 4.05 curies on March 21, and the Waste Surge Tank content of 1.00 curies on March 23, 1973:

The Waste Collector Tank was processed to "C" Waste Sample Tank through "B" Waste Collector Filter bypassing the demineralizer due to the high conductivity of the water. The high conductivity water was apparently the result of water carryover from the Waste Concentrator. On March 21, 1973, at 2055, the sample on "C" Waste Sample Tank indicated an activity of 3.6×10^7 uuCuries/liter which corresponds to 4.05 curies.

The "C" Waste Sample Tank was then pumped to an underground tank, "B" Waste Neutralizer, on March 22 at 1730. By March 23 at 0710, the entire "C" Waste Sample Tank had been pumped to the Waste Neutralizer for processing through the Waste Concentrator.

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On March 23, the Waste Collector Tank was processed to "C" Waste Sample Tank and sampled. The sample analysis showed the tank activity to be 1.56×10^6 uuCi/liter which corresponds to less than the Technical Specification limit of .7 curies. However, the conductivity of this water was unacceptable for storage. "C" Waste Sample Tank was then pumped to the Waste Surge Tank. It appears that residual on the bottom of the Waste Surge Tank caused the total activity of this tank to be 1.00 curies when the sample was analyzed at 1730 hours March 23.

A portion of the water in the Waste Surge Tank was processed through a filter and demineralizer which reduced the tank curie content to 0.27 curies as shown by the sample analysis on March 24, 1973 at 1715.

The presence of 4.05 and 1.00 curies in the "C" Waste Sample Tank and Waste Surge Tank at different times did not present a hazard to the public since the contents of the tanks were not released to the river and radioactivity was reduced to less than Technical Specification limits within 24 hours following collection and analysis of the samples. Had a failure of the above ground tanks occurred, as described in Admendment #9, Section V.C.1 of the S.A.R., and the radioactivity contained in the tanks been released to the aquatic environment, the limits as specified in 10 CFR 20.106 would not have been exceeded when averaged over one year.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

In order to minimize the potential for future incidents of this nature, a procedure will be issued by April 3, 1973, requiring sample analysis and calculations of curie content prior to processing to above ground radwaste storage tanks without the use of either a waste collector filter or the radwaste demineralizer.

Sincerely,

W. P. Worden

W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:do

cc: WPW Ltr. File

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