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Regulatory

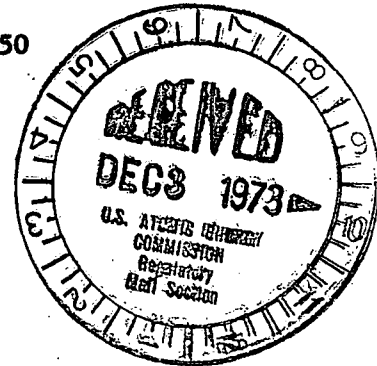
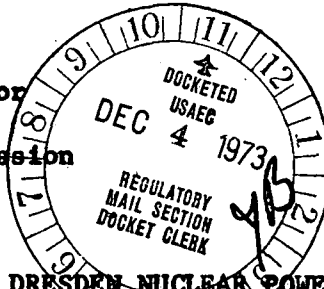
Co. Cy.

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WPW Ltr.#881-73

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

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



SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR-19, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT #2, REPORT OF ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE PER SECTION 6.6.B.1.a OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, TORUS HIGH WATER LEVEL

References: 1) Notification of Region III of AEC Regulatory Operations
 Telephone: Mr. Fisher, 1630 hours on November 26, 1973
 Telegram: Mr. Keppler, 0815 hours on November 27, 1973

2) Dwgs: P&ID M-51, 29

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This letter is to report a condition relating to the operation of the unit at about 2115 hours on November 23, 1973. At this time, it was noted that the torus water level indicated $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches above established limits. This high level condition is contrary to section 3.7.A.1 of the Technical Specifications which requires that a maximum water volume of 115,655 ft³ be maintained.

PROBLEM

The Unit #2 HPCI system was returned to service following a short maintenance outage. At this time a HPCI valve operability, pump operability, and flow rate test were conducted. During this period the unit was operating at 660 MWe and the load was being increased at 6 MWe/hour. The HPCI system was returned to service at 1730 hours November 23 and the surveillance testing was completed at 2115 hours, 3 hours 45 minutes later. Upon completion of the testing, it was noted that torus water level indicated 0 inches. The maximum water level allowed by the Technical Specifications is $-1\frac{1}{2}$ inches which is equivalent to 115,655 ft³. This high water level ($1\frac{1}{2}$ inches) is equal to approximately 931 ft³. Thirty-five (35) minutes later the torus water was placed on recirculation to obtain a sample prior to pumping down the level. At 0355 hours, November 24, the torus water was pumped to the Unit #2 condenser hotwell. At 0740 hours, November 24, torus draining was secured when the level was again within Technical Specification limits.

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The torus pool water provides the heat sink for the reactor primary system energy released following a postulated rupture of the system. The torus chamber water volume must absorb the associated decay and structural sensible heat released during primary system blowdown from 1000 psig. The Technical Specification bases further describes the functioning of the torus (pressure suppression) system.

INVESTIGATION

The cause of the torus water level increase of approximately 931 ft.³ is the running of the HPCI surveillance tests. During these 3 hours and 45 minutes of testing, the HPCI turbine exhaust steam is discharged to the torus and when the turbine is initiated a minimum flow line is open to the torus during turbine startup to protect the pump. These two factors allowed approximately 7,000 gallons of water to be added to the torus inventory.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

To preclude this situation from recurring, the torus water level will be pumped down to a minimum level before testing begins. A procedure revision will be made stating that the water level will be lowered prior to testing, so that the test does not begin with the torus at maximum level. This procedure change will be made within the next 90 days, prior to the next HPCI flow rate test.

EVALUATION

This situation did not jeopardize the public safety or health because all Emergency Core Cooling Systems (ECCS) were operable during this period. This situation should not develop again with the specified procedure change.

Although this situation has been experienced previously, this incident does not represent an unsafe operating trend. Consequently, continued operation is safe.

Sincerely,

Fred L. Morris
for W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:do

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