

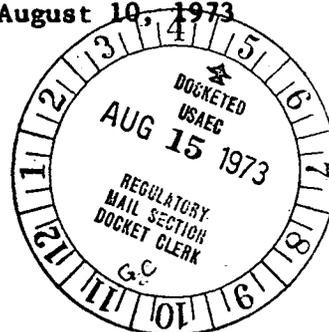


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Regulatory Docket File 50-237/249

WPW Ltr. #572-73

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
 R. R. #1
 Morris, Illinois 60450
 August 10, 1973



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

SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR-19/25, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT #2/3, SECTION 3.8.D OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, HIGH ACTIVITY IN ABOVE GROUND TANK "B" FLOOR DRAIN SAMPLE TANK.

- References: 1. Notification of Region III of AEC Regulatory Operations
 Telephone: G. Fiorelli, 1400 hours, on 8-2-73.
 Telegram: B. Grier, 1500 hours, on 8-2-73.
2. Dwg: P & ID M-44.

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

This letter is to report a condition relating to the operation of Unit 2/3 Radwaste at about 0820 hours, August 2, 1973. At this time the 24 hour period for reprocessing above ground tanks with radioactivity concentrations above 0.7 curies allowed by the Technical Specifications (Section 3.8.D) was exceeded by 2 hours.

PROBLEM

At 0820 hours on August 1, 1973 the processing of water to "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank from the Floor Drain Collector was completed and the B.F.D.S.T. was placed on recirculation for sampling. The sample results indicated the beta-gamma radioactivity to be 1.3×10^7 pCi/l. This concentration combined with a tank level of 82% resulted in a total curie content of 0.89 curies in the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank.

Although the tank was promptly analyzed, there was a misunderstanding between laboratory and operational personnel concerning the radioactivity reporting. Therefore, action on reprocessing the water was delayed until the morning of August 2, 1973 when another shift foreman verified that "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank radioactivity was 1.3×10^7 pCi/l. (0215 hours).

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August 10, 1973

In order to reduce the radioactivity of the water in the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank to within Technical Specifications limits, at 1105 hours on August 2, 1973, the "B" F.D.S.T. was partially transferred to the "B" Neutralizer Tank. At 1135 the concentration of 1.3×10^7 pCi/l at a tank level of approximately 63% resulted in a curie content of 0.68 curies in the "B" F.D.S.T.

Before water could be transferred from the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank to the "B" Neutralizer Tank, the "B" Neutralizer Tank had to be emptied. The Floor Drain Collector, which had filled up again, was transferred to the "B" Neutralizer Tank next. At 1105, August 2, the conditions existed that allowed the transferring of the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank to the "B" Neutralizer Tank.

INVESTIGATION

A review was made of the procedures applicable to the incident. It was determined that in following one operating procedure, the step requiring beta-gamma analysis of the Floor Drain Collector prior to processing was omitted. The delay in reprocessing the water in the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank was caused by a misunderstanding between laboratory and operational personnel about the radioactivity reporting units.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Enough water in the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank was transferred to the "B" Neutralizer Tank to reduce the curie content in the "B" F.D.S.T. to within Technical Specifications.

A review of the appropriate procedures has been made with the personnel involved. In addition, a revision of the operating procedure, 2000-XX, paragraph B, has been effected to clarify the section requiring radioactivity analysis of the Floor Drain Collector prior to processing to the Floor Drain Sample Tanks.

EVALUATION

The presence of 0.89 curies in the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank did not produce a hazard to the public since it was not released to the river and the tank beta-gamma radioactivity was reduced to below Technical Specifications 26 hours after the collection of the first samples. If a failure of the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank had occurred as described in Amendment #9, Section V.C.1 of the S.A.R., and the radioactivity contained in the tank had been released to the aquatic environment, the limits as specified in CFR 20.106 would not have been exceeded when averaged over one year.

Sincerely,

W. P. Worden

W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:do
cc: File-AEC Corr.