

CAUSE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

experienced numerous air starting difficulties which have since been resolved (see report no. 50-237/1976-39A), no failures of this type have been reported for the Unit 2/3 diesel.

Because of the above-mentioned difficulties with the Unit 2 diesel, the air start motor pinion gears of the Unit 2/3 diesel were examined for signs of burring or abrasion. No defects were evident.

During the last annual inspection, it was found that several carbon steel filter hold-down rods were slightly rusted. The rods were replaced with stainless steel rods, and the diesel was subsequently returned to service. Although the diesel started normally several times following its return to service, it has been postulated that some foreign matter originating from the rusted rods may have temporarily blocked the air start solenoid before being discharged from the system. The fact that the diesel has started normally eleven times since the failure lends credence to the theory of a momentary blockage such as would be caused by foreign matter in the air line.

In order to help determine the cause of failure in the event of a recurrence, the operator in the diesel generator room will use a sequential-event checklist for each start. This checklist will allow operating personnel to more readily identify the cause of failure should the problem recur. The diesel generator, rated at 2500 KW, 4160V, and 900 RPM, was supplied by Western Engine Co. and was manufactured by the Electromotive Division, General Motors Corp.



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BBS Ltr. #76-474

June 22, 1976

Mr. James G. Keppler, Regional Director
 Directorate of Regulatory Operations - Region III
 U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 799 Roosevelt Road
 Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Enclosed please find Reportable Occurrence number 50-237/1976-33.
 This report is being submitted to your office in accordance with the
 Dresden Nuclear Power Station Technical Specifications, Section 6.6.B.

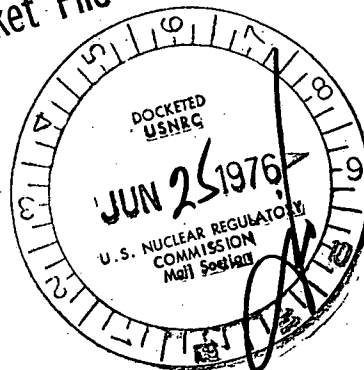
for *Arthur M. Roberts*
 B. B. Stephenson
 Station Superintendent
 Dresden Nuclear Power Station

BBS:jo

Enclosure

cc: Director of Inspection & Enforcement
 Director of Management Information & Program Control
 File/NRC

Regulatory Docket File



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