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May 11, 1987

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Dresden Station Units 2 and 3
Quad Cities Station Units 1 and 2
Response to Generic Letter 87-05
NRC Docket Nos. 50-237/249 & 50-254/265

Reference: Generic Letter 87-05 dated March 12, 1987

Dear Sir:

The above referenced Generic Letter requested that Dresden and Quad Cities Stations provide information regarding plans to identify potential degradation of the Mark I drywells. We have completed our review of this issue and have provided the requested information in the attachment to this letter.

Please address any questions that you or your staff may have regarding this response to this office.

Very truly yours,

M. S. Turbak

M. S. Turbak
Operating Plant Licensing Director

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Attachments

cc: Region III Administrator
Resident Inspector - Quad Cities
Resident Inspector - Dresden

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to
before me this 11th day
of May, 1987

Notary Public

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ATTACHMENT

RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 87-05

Below is the requested information regarding potential degradation of the Dresden and Quad Cities Station Mark I Drywells.

Question #1

Provide a discussion of your current program and any future plans for determining if the drain lines that were provided at your facility for removing any leakage that may result from refueling or from spillage of water into the gap between the drywell and the surrounding concrete or from the sand cushion itself are unplugged and functioning as designed.

Response to Question #1

Dresden and Quad Cities Stations do not currently have a program to functionally test the drain lines from the sand cushion area. The stations will attempt to demonstrate that the lines are open and functioning. The 4 one and one half inch diameter lines run from the bottom of the cushion through and out of the pedestal at 90° intervals around the drywell. These lines are believed to have been backfilled with sand during initial plant construction. This test will be performed by pressurizing the drain line. If the lines do not hold pressure, it will be assumed that water would be able to drain properly.

Question #2

Provide a discussion of preventive maintenance and inspection activities that are currently performed or are planned to minimize the possibility of leakage from the refueling cavity past the various seals and gaskets that might be present.

Response to Question #2

Quad Cities has a surveillance performed on the drywell liner drains each refueling outage. Surveillance (QTS 170-8) is performed during refueling outages while the reactor cavity is flooded. The surveillance requires that the open pipes located in the reactor building basement connected to the sand cushion, are observed for leakage.

Dresden Station is currently preparing a similar surveillance procedure. The surveillance will also require an examination in the torus basement to determine if water is draining from the expansion gap through other paths (e.g., around the drywell to torus vent headers). If water is found draining from the expansion gap, an investigation into the source of in-leakage and corrective action will be initiated.

Question #3

Confirm the information listed in Table 1 is correct in regard to your facility.

Response to Question #3

Enclosed are Dresden Unit 2 and 3 detailed sand gap drawings (Dresden 2-Drawing B-240, Rev. G; Dresden 3-Drawing B-670, Rev. B). These drawings should provide sufficient detail to allow removal of the asterisk signifying that drawings do not provide sufficient detail. The indication that Dresden 3 gap material was burned up should be more precisely stated as "partially burned away".

The Quad Cities Unit 1 ultrasonic (UT) wall thickness measurements were performed on December 6, 1986. The results of the inspection were sent to Mr. H.R. Denton from Ms. I.M. Johnson dated December 18, 1986.

Question Directed to Owners with Designs that have the Sand Cushion Open to the Gap Between the Drywell Shell and Surrounding Concrete

Both Dresden and Quad Cities Stations have a design such that the sand cushion is open to the gap between the drywell liner and the surrounding concrete. UT inspection results sent to the NRC have not been meaningful for this particular problem because the measurements were taken at the concrete floor level inside the drywell which corresponds to an area above the sand pocket.

Efforts are underway to determine if it is feasible to develop a UT inspection technique in which the thickness of the drywell liner below the concrete floor can be detected from above the concrete floor. The advantage of this technique is that it would make it possible to check for corrosion without chipping out concrete. It would also make it practical to inspect a much larger area.

If this technique cannot be developed within a reasonable time frame, a follow-up report will be transmitted to your office with an alternative plan for performing the ultrasonic thickness measurements by October 1, 1987. Our current plan is to take the thickness measurements during the scheduled refueling outage for each unit. The refueling outage start dates are shown below:

Dresden Unit 3	December 1987
Quad Cities Unit 2	March 1988
Dresden Unit 2	June 1988
Quad Cities Unit 1	March 1989