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January 12, 1990

Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Dresden Nuclear Power Station Unit 3
Diesel Generator Cooling Water
Flow Indication
NRC Docket No. 50-249

References (a): Letter from J.A. Silady to T.E. Murley dated October 28, 1987.

(b): Letter from D.R. Muller to H.E. Bliss dated September 1, 1988.

Dr. Murley:

Dresden Station committed to installation of flow indication in Units 2, 3 and 2/3 Diesel Generator (D/G) cooling water system in the 1989-1990 timeframe as part of the Regulatory Guide (R.G.) 1.97 review as discussed in References (a) and (b). Unit 3 installation has been delayed and may not be accomplished until 1991. The Unit 2 installation is still scheduled for its next refueling outage (December 1990). Instrumentation for D/G 2/3 has been installed but construction testing has revealed possible system problems.

Unit 2/3 flow indication was installed during the ongoing D3R11 outage. Erratic flow indication was exhibited during construction testing. An 8 inch check valve located at cooling pump discharge oscillated at the same frequency of the indicator needle movement, indicating that cooling water flow was indeed pulsating. The pulsations are believed to be caused by the weight of the check valve disk opposing system flow. Unit 3 installation was postponed pending results of analysis to determine the root cause of the pulsations. Sufficient time is therefore no longer available to install the Unit 3 instrumentation during D3R11 as the D/G is required to be operable to support outage testing prior to startup.

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The safety significance of restarting Unit 3 without new flow indication for the D/G Cooling Water is minimal. Although existing flow indication downstream of the D/G does not meet accuracy requirements of R.G. 1.97, it does provide an approximation of system flow. In addition, an existing D/G engine temperature alarm assures that the operator is aware of any significant problems with proper engine cooling.

Please contact this office should further information be required.

Very truly yours,

J.A. Silady

J.A. Silady
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

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cc: A.B. Davis - Regional Administrator, RIII
B.L. Siegel - Project Manager, NRR
S.G. DuPont - Senior Resident Inspector, Dresden

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