



Commonwealth Edison
Dresden Nuclear Power Station
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*Central
Mail*

November 5, 1976

BBS Ltr. #780-76

50-249

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

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This report is furnished pursuant to section 6.6.C.3 of the Dresden Unit 3 Technical Specifications which requires an evaluation of main steamline process radiation monitoring system relative to detecting fuel leakage.

The high radiation monitors in the main steamline tunnel are designed to detect gross fuel failures. Gross fuel failures would result in an increased radiation level at the detector location and provide an automatic isolation of Group 1 valves when radiation levels reached a set point three times full power background radiation levels.

The performance of this process radiation monitoring system has been evaluated. No gross fuel failures have occurred on Dresden Unit 3. The most significant incidence of fuel failures occurred on October 31, 1974, when a control rod withdrawal error resulted in localized fuel leakage. This fuel leakage was detected by the main steamline high radiation monitors which increased by a factor of approximately 1.3. Thus this monitoring system will detect fuel failures.

Our experience indicates that the air ejector off gas monitors, located at the beginning of the off gas hold pipe, are a more sensitive means of detecting fuel failures. During the October 31, 1974, incident these monitors increased by a factor of approximately 8.

Sincerely,

B. B. Stephenson
Station Superintendent

BBS:DAA:gt

cc: File/NRC

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