

WESTERN-UNION INCOMING

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DR PETER A MORRIS, DLY 75

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION DIRECTOR DIVISION OF REACTOR LICENSING WASHDC 20545

SUBJECT: INFORMATION CONCERNING A DRESDEN UNIT THREE JET PUMP PROBLEM.

DEAR DR MORRIS: ON MONDAY MARCH 15TH WHILE PERFORMING TESTING ON DRESDEN UNIT THREE IT WAS FOUND THAT JET PUMP #11 INDICATED A PRESSURE DROP WHICH WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD LESS THAN THE OTHER PUMPS IN THE CORE. JET PUM #11 IS A CALIBRATED JET PUMP AND IS EQUIPPED WITH TWO PRESSURE TAPS ON THE DIFFUSER SECTION OF THE JET PUMP. WHEN THIS OCCURRED IT WAS SUSPECTED THAT IS WAS A PROBLEM WITH THE FLOW INSTRUMENTATION. SEVERAL CHECKS OF THIS INSTRUMENTATION WERE MADE. THESE INCLUDED CALIBRATION AND SENSOR CHECKS AND BACK FLUSHING OF THE SENSOR LINES. LATE WEDNESDAY IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE JET PUMP ITSELF AND WAS NOT AN INSTRUMENTATION PROBLEM. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED AT THIS TIME TO REMOVE THE HEAD FOR INSPECTION OF THE PUMP ITSELF.

SINCE FUEL LOADING THERE HAVE BEEN 38 CRITICALS RUN ON THE CORE. THE PEAK POWER REACHED ON ANY ONE OF THESE CRITICALS WAS FIVE KILOWATTS AND THE AVERAGE POWER ATTAINED DURING THESE CRITICALS WAS ONE KILOWATT. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED FROM RECORDS AT THE STATION THAT THE EXPOSURE ON THE FUEL AT THIS TIME IS ONE KILOWATT DAY. BASED ON THIS EXPOSURE IT HAS ALSO BEEN CALCULATED THAT THE TOTAL CORE DECAY HEAT AT THIS TIME IS 1.5 WATTS AND THAT THE FISSION PRODUCT ACTIVITY IS APPROXIMATELY SIX CURIES

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ASSUMING NO DECAY. BASED ON THE ABOVE CHECKS THE STATION REVIEW BOARD AND THE NUCLEAR REVIEW BOARD HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE CORE IS NOT IRRADIATED AND DRAINING THE CORE WOULD NOT RESULT IN A CLAD TEMPERATURE PROBLEM OR A DOSE PROBLEM. IN ADDITION THE STATION REVIEW BOARD AND THE NUCLEAR REVIEW BOARD HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SINCE THE CORE IS NOT IRRADIATED DRAINING OF THE CORE TO INSPECT THE JET PUMPS WOULD NOT BE A VIOLATION OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.

ON THURSDAY AT APPROXIMATELY TWELVE NOON PREPARATIONS WERE STARTED TO REMOVE THE REACTOR VESSEL HEAD. ON SUNDAY IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS JOB WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF THE REACTOR VESSEL HEAD THE CURRENT PLAN IS TO DRAIN THE CORE TO THE LEVEL OF THE JET PUMP THROAT. THIS IS APPROXIMATELY 2/3 CORE HEIGHT. AT THIS POINT A MAN WILL BE SENT DOWN TO MAKE A PRELIMINARY INSPECTION TO DETERMINE ANY OBVIOUS BLOCKAGE OF THE JET PUMP. IT IS PLANNED TO LOWER THE WATER LEVEL TO THIS POINT INITIALLY SINCE ANY REPAIR WOULD REQUIRE LOWERING WATER LEVEL TO THIS POINT AND IN ADDITION VIBRATION INSTRUMENTATION MUST BE MANUALLY DISCONNECTED BEFORE REPAIRS CAN BEGIN. IF NOTHING IS ASCERTAINED FROM THE PRELIMINARY INSPECTION THE RAMS HEAD FOR JET PUMP #11 WILL BE REMOVED AND INSPECTED. IF NOTHING IS FOUND IN THIS AREA A MORE COMPLETE INSPECTION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE PUMP WILL BE REQUIRED. THE ABOVE WORK IS TO START AS WAS INDICATED ABOVE SOMETIME SUNDAY EVENING OR EARLY MONDAY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME. VERY TRULY YOURS

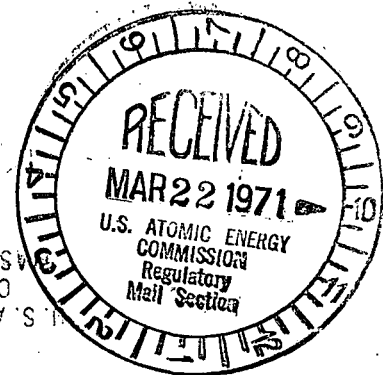
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