U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

Report No. 50-409/79-20

Docket No. 50-409 License No. DPR-45

Licensee: Dairyland Power Cooperative
2615 East Avenue - South
La Crosse, WI 54601

Facility Name: La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor

Inspection At: Dairyland Power Cooperative headquarters, La Crosse, WI

Inspection Conducted: October 18, 1979

Inspector: K. R. Ridgway for 11-16-79

Approved By: D. C. Boyd, Chief 11-16-79
Reactor Projects, Section 3

Inspection Summary

Inspection on October 18, 1979 (Report No. 50-409/79-20)
Areas Inspected: Annual review meeting for the discussion of the licensee's regulatory performance and areas of NRC concern. The meeting was attended by four NRC personnel and required two hours.
Results: No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

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DETAILS

1. Persons in Attendance

Dairyland Power Cooperative

F. W. Linder, General Manager
J. W. Taylor, Assistant General Manager Power
R. E. Shimshak, Plant Superintendent
J. D. Parkyn, Assistant Plant Superintendent

USNRC Region III

J. G. Keppler, Director, Region II
R. F. Heishman, Chief, Reactor Operations and Nuclear Support Branch
D. C. Boyd, Chief, Reactor Projects Section 3
K. R. Ridgway, Project Inspector

2. Corporate Management Meeting

A meeting between members of the licensee management and Region III of the Office of Inspection and Enforcement management was conducted on October 18, 1979 at the licensee's corporate office. During this meeting, inspection and enforcement history for the past 3 years was reviewed with the licensee. The data presented included inspection frequency, noncompliance frequency and severity, and nonroutine events reported by the licensee.

Region III personnel expressed concern with the depletion of the licensee's technical staff and the apparent increase in personnel errors reported by the licensee.

In addition, a discussion was held concerning the recent event relating to the unintentional bypassing of low flow scram set-point during low power reactor operation. Region III management expressed their concern that a situation such as this could have existed during several shift changes without being recognized and corrected by the licensed operators. The discussions included an exchange of information related to this issue and the end result was that better performance was intended by the licensee and required by the NRC.

The licensee stated that acquisition of replacements was being expedited and that contractor personnel were being utilized where possible.

The NRC expressed concerns that the recent increase in personnel error and the apparent relaxation in operational adherence to administrative controls are related to the reduction in the number of qualified personnel in the companies technical staff.

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The licensee acknowledges that they have lost several key technical personnel in recent months and that they are experiencing some difficulty in replacing them in a timely manner. The licensee stated that, as an interim measure, they are utilizing qualified contracted personnel to provide these requirements. The licensee stated that they have increased their efforts to staff these positions with permanent qualified personnel.

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