



**Consumers
Power
Company**

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COPY

May 9, 1980

Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Att Mr Dennis M Crutchfield, Chief
Operating Projects Branch No 5
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D C 20555

DOCKET 50-155 - LICENSE DPR-6 -
BIG ROCK POINT PLANT - RESPONSE TO NRC
LETTER DATED JANUARY 11, 1980: CONTROL
RODS FAILING TO FULLY INSERT

NRC letter dated January 11, 1980, requested information concerning Big Rock Point Plant's experience with control rods failing to fully insert and control rod drive malfunctions. This information was requested by April 10, 1980; however, due to scheduling problems, this information is being provided at this time.

During the 1978 and 1979 period, there were only four occurrences of control rod unlatching (no other malfunctions or failures to fully insert occurred). Three of these four occurrences were due to E2 control rod drive drifting out of the core and were on: May 6, 1978 (Deviation Report D-BRP-78-46), May 17, 1978 (Deviation Report D-BRP-78-47), and July 5, 1978 (Deviation Report D-BRP-78-57). The fourth occurrence was due to E2 control rod drive drifting into the core and occurred on September 14, 1978 (Deviation Report D-BRP-78-81). All occurrences were considered non-reportable.

Control rod drive B2 (serial number 253) was changed out and rebuilt. A sticky substance was found on the surface of the piston tube, but was removed before a sample could be taken. A sample of the graphitar seals and portions of the seal-to-piston contact area were sent to Battelle Columbus Laboratories and the examination did not reveal any foreign material. The control rod drive was cleaned, rebuilt and installed, and has not malfunctioned since.

The problem that occurred with E2 drive on September 14, 1978, was that the drive was inserting into the core. A test was performed four days later to try to duplicate the problem, but with no success. The cause of the problem is unknown, but the drive was changed out and inspected with no abnormalities found.

Big Rock Point Plant
Response to NRC Letter
Dated January 11, 1980

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Thus, the above two, B2 and E2, drive malfunctions are not related and have not occurred since 1978.

David P Hoffman (Signed)

David P Hoffman
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

CC JGKepler, USNRC