

May 15, 1980

In reply, please
refer to LAC-6918

DOCKET NO. 50-409

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

MAY 22 1980

SUBJECT: DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
LA CROSSE BOILING WATER REACTOR (LACBWR)
PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-45
IE BULLETIN NO. 79-26

Reference: (1) NRC Letter, Keppler to Linder, enclosing
IE Bulletin No. 79-26, dated
November 20, 1979.

Dear Mr. Keppler:

The subject IE Bulletin discussed a potential failure mode which has been observed in General Electric Company (GE) control blades which can cause a loss of boron poison material through cracks in the stainless steel tubing containing the B₄C. The IE Bulletin also stated four specific items requiring certain actions and reports from all BWR power reactor facilities with an operating license. The findings as to Item (3) for the LACBWR is reported below.

On April 6, 1980, the LACBWR was shutdown for scheduled maintenance including the installation of equipment required by NUREG-0578. While the reactor was in the cold shutdown condition on the 19th of April, each control blade was individually fully withdrawn and it was demonstrated that the reactor was subcritical with any one control blade withdrawn and the other 28 blades fully inserted.

On April 26, 1980, with the reactor in the cold xenon-free condition, a shutdown margin test was conducted which demonstrated that the shutdown margin with the highest worth control blade fully withdrawn and the other 28 blades fully inserted was at least 2.06% $\Delta k/k$. The LACBWR Technical Specification requirement for shutdown margin in this condition is 0.5% $\Delta k/k$. Since no control blade in the LACBWR

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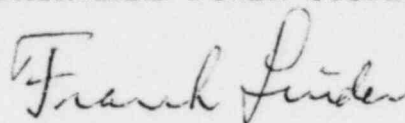
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has greater than 34 percent B¹⁰ depletion averaged over the upper one-fourth of the blade, the potential loss of boron from control blades was not a factor in this test.

If you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE



Frank Linder, General Manager

FL:SJR:af

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection
Washington, D. C. 20555