



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS  
REGION III  
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD  
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

TELEPHONE  
(312) 858-2660

June 29, 1972

Consumers Power Company  
ATTN: Mr. Russell C. Youngdahl  
Senior Vice President  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Docket No. 50-329  
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Gentlemen:

Information obtained during inspections conducted by the Directorate of Regulatory Operations, has disclosed that a number of facilities have been equipped with valves with wall thicknesses below the minimum requirements specified by the applicable codes, standards and procurement specifications. In other instances, licensees have not been able to document whether or not their valves met minimum wall thickness requirements. Our survey of this subject has disclosed that the matter is not limited to any class of licensee or valve supplier.

In light of the above information, you are requested to verify, through manufacturing records or other suitable means, that valves important to nuclear safety installed or to be installed at your facilities meet the minimum wall thickness requirements of the specified codes or standards. To the extent that verification records are currently available, you are requested to promptly accumulate those records at the plant site, and to advise this office within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, of what records are available and when our inspector may examine them at the plant site.

In the event that records are not currently available, you are requested to advise this office within thirty (30) days, of your plans and schedules for demonstrating by suitable alternate means, that valves important to nuclear safety installed or to be installed at your facilities are acceptable with respect to wall thickness.

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The valves which require demonstration of acceptable wall thickness are:

All valves within the reactor coolant pressure boundary (Quality Group Classification A) and within the boundaries of systems of Quality Group Classification B and C as defined in Safety Guide 26, "Quality Group Classifications and Standards." The relevant dimensional criteria are defined in ASME Code for Pumps and Valves for Nuclear Power or ASME Section III Code - Nuclear Power Plants Components for Class 1, 2, and 3 valves as applicable.

Certain of your valves may have, for procurement convenience, been ordered to ratings higher than actually required by service conditions. In such instances, you may, if you wish, provide for our review, an engineering justification for accepting valves which do not conform to procurement specifications, but do, in your opinion, satisfy service requirements.

Satisfactory resolutions of this matter will be a condition of future issuance of an operating license for your facilities.

Very truly yours,

Boyce H. Grier  
Regional Director

bcc: RO Files  
DR Central Files  
PDR  
Local PDR