RADIATION PROTECTION

Commonwealth Edison Company

72 WEST ADAMS STREET • CHICAGO 90 ILLINOIS

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450

October 27, 1965

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DOCKET NO 50-237

File Copy (suppl.)

Mr. Roger S. Boyd, Chief
Research and Power Reactor Safety Branch
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

Dear Roger:

This letter is to confirm our telephone conversation of October 18, 1965, respecting the status of reactor control rod drive J-2 of Unit 1 of Dresden Nuclear Power Station, referred to in our letter of October 14, 1965.

Before starting to bring the reactor to criticality last Saturday, October 16, shut-down margin tests were performed on the cold (120°F) xenon-free core and it was verified that, with control rod J-2 fully withdrawn and control rod C-9 at notch 8 the reactor would be subcritical by a margin of at least 0.01ΔK. Later that day during the process of bringing the reactor to criticality, although difficulty was experienced in withdrawing control rod J-2 at normal actuating pressures, full withdrawal to position 12 was obtained by using increased actuating pressures. Early Sunday morning, October 17, with the reactor coolant heated up to 546°F (1,000 psi) J-2 responded in a normal manner when given the insert signal and scrammed properly when given the scram signal but it could not be withdrawn at normal actuating pressure.

Despite the fact that control rod J-2 was fully inserted, the operation of the reactor was continued to provide the steam necessary for starting up and running the turbo-generator to determine that the drain line from the high pressure turbine had been repaired. Upon verification that this repair had been accomplished, the plant was shutdown and the reactor cooled sufficiently to permit plugging a condenser tube, in which cooling water in-leakage had been discovered shortly before the turbo-generator start-up, as well as to allow further attempts at J-2 withdrawal.

ACKNOWLEDGED

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When the reactor had cooled to approximately 392°F (211 psi) withdrawal of control rod J-2 was accomplished. In order to avoid jeopordizing the capability of establishing symmetrical rod patterns which impose the least distortion of power distribution and since it had been verified that the shutdown criteria specified in DPR-2 could be satisfied with control rod J-2 fully withdrawn, J-2 was valved out of service and de-energized at notch 12. Plugging off of the leaking condenser tube having been completed, the plant was restored to regular service when its turbo-generator was synchronized onto the company's electric system at 5:05 A. M. on October 18, 1965.

We have prepared an additional operating order which utilizes a separate log to provide a ready reference record on our regular monitoring of control rod drive operation.

Very truly yours,

H. K. Hoyt

H. K. Hoyt
Superintendent
Dresden Nuclear Power Station

HKH:jjk

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FROM: Commonwealth Edison Co.
Morris, Illinois
(H . K. Hoyt)

TO: Mr. Boyd

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Ltr. confirming telecon of 10-18-65 regarding the status of reactor control rod drive J-2 of Unit 1 of Dresden Nuclear Power Station, referred to in their 10-14-65 ltr.....

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