

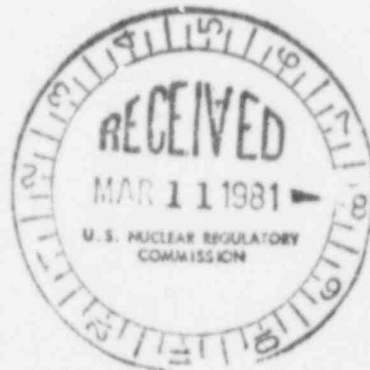


UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 6 1981

Docket Nos.: 50-329/330

Mr. J. V. Cook
Vice President
Consumers Power Company
1945 West Parnall Road
Jackson, Michigan 49201



Dear Mr. Cook:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT MODIFICATIONS FOR MIDLAND REACTOR PRESSURE VESSELS

Your letter to Mr. J. Keppler of December 10, 1980, with its several references, described the modifications for the reactor pressure vessel supports planned for the Midland Plant. The revised support concept would detension the holddown bolts to a lower preload value, and incorporate upper lateral supports to restrict forces associated with overturning moments during an accident condition. Your letter also noted your agreement that "... actual plant modifications to compensate for the defective bolts will not be started on Unit 1 until approval of the design concept is received from NRR."

We have reviewed the proposed design concept and find it to be an acceptable alternative for either Unit 1 or Unit 2. We also find no reason why the revised concept cannot be developed consistent with the objectives of the research and development program with respect to the effects of blowdown forces on vessel internals (Midland PSAR Section 1.5.9) as discussed in Section 2.6 to Supplement 2 of our SER dated July 1977. Our review of the Midland application for operating licenses is in progress and we will, of course, continue to review your progress in further developing this concept through appropriate amendments to the FSAR. On the basis of our review, we find no reason why construction modifications should not proceed in parallel with these further development efforts at your own risk.

Your letter indicated some indecision as to whether the proposed modifications would be applied to Unit 2. Our review of the acceptability of Unit 2 without such modification has not been concluded. Please advise us of your present intentions with regard to Unit 2.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Tedesco, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page.

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