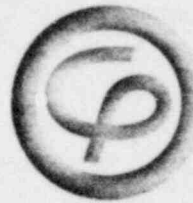




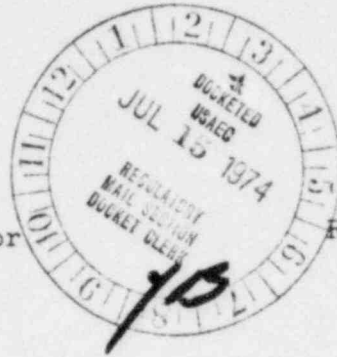
Regulatory



Consumers Power Company

General Offices: 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201 • Area Code 517 788-0550

July 10, 1974



Mr. John F. O'Leary, Director  
Directorate of Licensing  
US Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, DC 20545

Re: Docket 50-155  
License DPR-6  
Big Rock Point

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

Consumers Power Company made several commitments to be carried out during the refueling outage that was scheduled to commence in July 1974. Due to the short cycle that occurred between the start-up in early May of 1974 and the shutdown in early June of 1974 (a core average burnup of approximately 450 MWd/T), three of these commitments are being deferred until the next refueling outage. The commitments that are being deferred involve the replacement of the initial type neutron sources (refer to our letter dated March 26, 1974 and Unusual Event Report 3-74 dated April 30, 1974) and the gamma scanning of the cobalt corner rods (refer to Unusual Event Report 4-74 dated May 7, 1974).

Consumers Power Company's letter of March 26, 1974 stated:

"It is planned to replace both neutron sources and reinstall the activated antimony pins, from the original neutron sources. The gamma source holddown device has been modified to provide a means of irradiating a new antimony pin while utilizing the new neutron sources. (GE drawings 785-012 and 785-014). One of the original antimony pins will be removed from the reactor and a new antimony pin will be inserted into the neutron source during the July-August 1974 refueling outage. The second antimony pin will be replaced during the succeeding refueling outage. This course of action will assure adequate neutron source strength throughout the changeover from the original neutron sources to the new neutron sources."

Because of the short length of the operating cycle, the antimony pin being activated in the modified gamma source holddown device did not receive sufficient radiation to obtain the minimum curie strength required to provide a sufficient number of gamma rays at start-up. Therefore, the plans of antimony pin activation have been delayed until the next refueling outage. The necessary neutron source strength might not be sufficient to allow start-up if the originally outlined plans were followed.

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Mr. John F. O'Leary  
Docket 50-155, License DPR-6  
Big Rock Point  
July 10, 1974

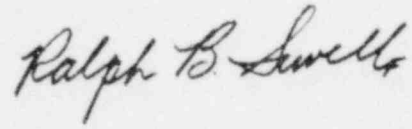
The original antimony pins were visually inspected during the last refueling outage (ending May 1974) and no indication of dimensional changes or metal attack were noted. Therefore, further irradiation of the original antimony pins is not expected to jeopardize the operation of the plant.

In Unusual Event Report 3-74, the failure of the original initial type neutron source beryllium-containing cylinders was attributed to an excessive buildup of internal pressure. Under corrective action, Consumers Power Company committed to an inspection and measurement of the replacement source assemblies during each refueling outage. Due to the short length of the operating cycle, we have concluded that inspection and measurement of these source assemblies would serve no useful purpose and are, therefore, delaying the initial inspection until the next refueling outage.

Unusual Event Report 4-74 transmitted by letter dated May 7, 1974 stated as corrective action that gamma scanning of the cobalt targets would be performed during the then planned July-August 1974 refueling outage to determine if further nonuniformities were forming. Since the operating cycle was shorter than planned (approximately 450 MWd/T), gamma scanning during the present refueling outage is not required. All of the high activity corner rods containing the suspect 11C5 capsules were removed during the last refueling outage. Therefore, significant gaps in the cobalt corner rods are not expected to exist at the present time and the gamma scanning has been rescheduled for the next refueling outage.

The unusual event report further stated that metallographic examinations would be performed. These examinations have been initiated at Battelle Columbus Laboratories. Photographic records of the cobalt capsules have been taken and samples are being mounted per cobalt wire microstructure examination. The work should be completed before it is necessary to manufacture the cobalt capsules for the next refueling outage. However, no conclusive information is available at the present time.

Yours very truly,



Ralph B. Sewell  
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

RBS/map

CC: JGKeppler, USAEC

FROM: Consumers Power Company Jackson, Mich 49201 Mr. R.B. Sewell		DATE OF DOC 7-10-74	DATE REC'D 7-12-74	LTR X	TWX	RPT	OTHER
TO: J.P. O'Leary		ORIG 1 signed	CC	OTHER	SENT AEC PDR SENT LOCAL PDR		XXX XXX
CLASS	UNCLASS XXX	PROP INFO	INPUT	NO CYS REC'D 40	DOCKET NO: 50-155		

DESCRIPTION:  
Ltr furn info concerning.....the replacement of the Activated antimony pins in the neutron sources.....

PLANT NAME: Big Rock Point

ENCLOSURES:

ACKNOWLEDGED

DO NOT REMOVE

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION 7-16-74 JB

- |                      |                         |                          |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| BUTLER (L)<br>W/ CYS | SCHWENCER (L)<br>W/ CYS | ZIEMANN (L)<br>W/ CYS    | REGAN (E)<br>W/ CYS |
| CLARK (L)<br>W/ CYS  | STOLZ (L)<br>W/ CYS     | DICKER (E)<br>W/ CYS     |                     |
| DADD (L)<br>W/ CYS   | MASCALLO (L)<br>W/ CYS  | KNIGHTON (E)<br>W/ CYS   |                     |
| KNIEL (L)<br>W/ CYS  | PURPLE (L)<br>W/ CYS    | YOUNGBLOOD (E)<br>W/ CYS |                     |

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