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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN MEMORIAL-PHOENIX PROJECT

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NORTH CAMPUS  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48105

REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE NUMBER 10

June 23, 1981

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
Attention: James G. Keppler  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137



Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report of the reportable occurrence at the Ford Nuclear Reactor (FNR) on June 9, 1981.

At approximately 11:20 a.m. on June 9, 1981, the Ford Nuclear Reactor was started up and was inadvertently operated for about 20 minutes at 2.2 megawatts. As soon as it was discovered that this was the operating level, power level was reduced to 2.0 megawatts and normal reactor operation continued.

During the preceding maintenance period, the linear level detection system had been worked on. An instrument level check was performed at 500 kilowatts during the startup. The level check is performed to verify that the linear level system and three other power level detection systems read 500 kilowatts or are within a specified deviation from 500 kilowatts.

The 500 KW level was established using the linear level detector. The three other detectors were out of the level check range on the high side indicating that linear level readings were below actual power. The level values on all four channels were properly recorded in the logbook, but the fact that some were out of specification was overlooked.

Power level was increased to an indicated value of 1.6 megawatts on the linear level system and the reactor was placed in automatic control. A calorimetric power measurement at this point indicated an actual power of 2.2 megawatts.

The following corrective measures have been taken or will be completed within 30 days in order to prevent a repetition of this type of occurrence.

1. The four reactor operators who were involved with the occurrence will undergo a retraining program.

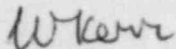
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2. During the 500 kilowatt level check, power level will be established on an instrument system which has not undergone maintenance.
3. During the 500 kilowatt level check, in addition to the actual level of each channel being recorded, the upper and lower range values will be recorded in order to make an out of tolerance reading more nearly obvious.
4. Calorimetric power level determinations will be performed at 1 megawatt indicated power in order to reduce the probability of temporarily exceeding 2 megawatts of actual power during the measurement.

Sincerely,



William Kerr  
Director  
Michigan Memorial-Phoenix Project

WK/z

copy: R. Burn  
G. Cook  
B. Ducamp  
Control Room  
Safety Review Committee  
P. Ernst (Reactor Auditor)