



Commonwealth Edison

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January 14, 1981

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Zion Station Units 1 and 2
Containment Purge Valves
NRC Docket Nos. 50-295 and 50-304

References (a): October 23, 1979 letter from A. Schwencer
to D. L. Peoples

(b): November 25, 1980 letter from S. A. Varga
to J. S. Abel

Dear Mr. Denton:

This is to confirm our intent to comply at Zion with the NRC's "Interim Position for Containment Purge and Vent Valve Operation Pending Resolution of Isolation Valve Operability" transmitted via Reference (a). This is a temporary plan and is expected to be used when the reactor is not in the refueling or cold shutdown mode for only a few days prior to refueling. When the questions transmitted via Reference (b) have been resolved, we expect to return to unrestricted purge operation.

In accordance with the "Interim Position..." Zion's containment purge valves will be positioned between 30° and 50° from the closed position whenever they are opened while the reactor is in any mode other than refueling or cold shutdown. This will be accomplished by limiting air supply pressure on the valve operator. Pressure regulators will be installed upstream of the air supply pilot valves.

We conclude that the valves will close when required from the range of positions because the closing torque available from the spring in this range is 60,000 inch-pounds or more. The maximum spring closing torque is 100,000 inch-pounds. The manufacturer's data indicates that bearing friction in this range is between 190 and 264 inch-pounds for the sonic flow condition.

Valve positions will be established through measurements of shaft rotation each time the valves are opened. Air pressure will

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also be measured at that time and checked daily thereafter. We expect this mode of purge valve operation to continue for only a few days. If it lasts more than five days the outboard valve positions will be remeasured every five days. The inboard valve operators are accessible only in the containment via ladder and will not be rechecked unless the valves are closed or there is reason to believe that the position has changed.

Please contact me if further information is needed.

Very truly yours,



T. R. Tramm

cc: Zion - Resident Office

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