



ATTACHMENT TO LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 78-034/03L-0  
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY (CWE)  
DRESDEN UNIT-1 (ILDRS-1)  
DOCKET # 050-010

On December 1, 1978, fuel assembly #UN398 was dropped from the fuel grapple inside the fuel handling building at Dresden Unit 1. The channeled assembly had just been removed from the fuel transfer basket and it fell a distance of about 12 feet to the floor of the transfer pool. The fuel handling foreman, who was on the refueling floor, was notified. A visual inspection of the assembly was made and it revealed no indications of any damage to the assembly. The assembly was retrieved by a chain hoist and stored in its designated location in the spent fuel pool. Two other assemblies were removed from the fuel transfer basket and also stored in the spent fuel pool. The shift engineer and the Assistant Superintendent were notified and the fuel grapple was taken out-of-service for inspection.

On December 2, 1978, the grapple was inspected by the Maintenance Department. The grapple latching mechanism appeared to operate normally, and no indications of any grapple malfunctions were observed during that inspection. The grapple was used to pick up a dummy fuel assembly in the spent fuel pool and that operation also proceeded normally. At the conclusion of that inspection and trial, the fuel grapple was taken back out-of-service for the Assistant Superintendent.

On Monday, December 4, 1978, an On-Site Review was held to determine any further corrective actions which might be necessary to ensure the operability of the Unit 1 fuel grapple and permit continued refueling operations. As a result of that review, the following corrective actions were taken to prevent recurrence.

Item #1 - The dummy fuel assembly was moved from the spent fuel pool to the basket and back to once again indicate proper operation of the grapple.

Item #2 - The observer in the spent fuel building, who had been observing assembly serial numbers and ensuring the assemblies were placed in the proper location in the spent fuel pool, was given binoculars and directed to verify the latching by the grapple onto the fuel assembly. This practice was already in effect on the refueling floor to verify assemblies are latched by that grapple when they are removed from the reactor and placed into the transfer basket. After visual verification is made, the observer will sign the fuel transfer checklist, as is currently required for Dresden Units 2 and 3.

Item #3 - The fuel handlers were instructed to check for proper latching of the assembly by the grapple by slowly turning the grapple back and forth once it is believed to be engaged on the assembly. This movement should indicate that the assembly is firmly latched and will not accidentally drop from the grapple with subsequent movement.

Item #4 - A Discrepancy Record was initiated and a Hold Tag placed to prevent re-use of the fuel assembly until further inspections are completed. It is believed that no mechanical malfunction occurred with the grapple, but that the most likely cause for this event was that the grapple was not properly engaged on the assembly prior to the assembly being removed from the fuel transfer basket. The corrective actions listed above will provide the requisite assurances that proper latching has been achieved prior to moving the assembly, and no further corrective action is deemed necessary.