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TLX CONSPower JKN  
106 CONSUMERS POWER JACKSON MI 16:38 EDS 10-29

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MSG # MLB900

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY  
212 W MICHIGAN AVENUE  
JACKSON, MICHIGN  
10-29-82 4:40 PM

THE FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

MIDLAND, MICH, OCTOBER 29 -- CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY HAS REPORTED TO THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION THAT ITS QUALITY ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT ENGINEERS HAVE IDENTIFIED FOUR IMPROPERLY INSTALLED ELECTRIC CABLES AT THE MIDLAND NUCLEAR PLANT.

THE CABLES WERE FOUND DURING AN ADDITIONAL INSPECTION INITIATED BY CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY TO VERIFY THAT ALL INSTALLED SAFETY-RELATED CABLES CONFORMED TO DESIGN REQUIREMENTS. TO DATE, OVER 425 CABLES HAVE BEEN INSPECTED.

THIS INSPECTION IS ONLY ONE OF NUMEROUS INSPECTIONS AND TESTS NOW UNDERWAY OR PLANNED. THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS TO CERTIFY AND DOCUMENT THAT THE PLANT HAS BEEN PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED AND IS READY FOR OPERATION, ACCORDING TO JAMES W COOK, CONSUMERS POWER'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROJECTS, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION.

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THE CABLES, WHICH HAVE BEEN REPLACED, WERE INSTALLED IN JULY AND

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AUGUST 1981, BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN ENERGIZED. THE FOUR CABLES, CONTAINING ABOUT 600 FEET OF WIRING, ARE PART OF THE PLANT'S 10-MILLION-FOOT ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.

THE SPECIFIC ERROR DISCOVERED IN THE FOUR CABLES WAS THE SUBSTITUTION OF A SMALLER WIRE SIZE, NUMBER 14-GAUGE CONDUCTOR, RATHER THAN THE NUMBER 10-GAUGE SPECIFIED. THE 10-GAUGE WIRE CAN TRANSMIT HIGHER ELECTRICAL CURRENT THAN THE SMALLER WIRE SIZE. ALL OTHER CABLE CHARACTERISTICS; INSULATION VOLTAGE RATING AND THERMAL QUALIFICATIONS, NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS, SHIELDING, WERE APPROPRIATE.

THE CABLES LEAD TO TWO MOTOR-OPERATED VALVES IN THE PLANT'S DECAY HEAT REMOVAL SYSTEM, PART OF A BACKUP SAFETY SYSTEM USED TO COOL THE NUCLEAR REACTOR. THE 14-GAUGE WIRE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DONE THE JOB SHOULD IT HAVE EVER BEEN NEEDED, SAID COOK, BUT IT WOULD NOT HAVE PROVIDED THE SAFETY MARGIN THAT IS DESIGNED INTO THE CIRCUIT.

HE ADDED THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE WIRE WOULD HAVE PERFORMED THE DESIGN FUNCTION WOULD HAVE BEEN FULLY DEMONSTRATED DURING THE PLANT SYSTEM'S TESTING PROGRAM SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SHORTLY AND BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO PLANT OPERATION.

THE DISCREPANCY OCCURRED WHEN THE CABLES WERE IMPROPERLY MARKED AFTER THEY WERE CUT FROM LARGER REELS IN A SEPARATE BUILDING AND SENT INTO THE PLANT TO BE INSTALLED. THE INSPECTION CHECK WHICH OCCURRED AFTER THE ORIGINAL TAGGING DID NOT IDENTIFY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CABLE JACKET MARKINGS AND THE TAGGING INFORMATION.

THE CABLES IN QUESTION ARE AMONG MORE THAN 9,000 SAFETY-RELATED CABLES THAT WILL BE EXAMINED AS PART OF THIS INVESTIGATION OF ALL SAFETY-RELATED CABLES INSTALLED AT THE MIDLAND PLANT. THE INVESTIGATION, WHICH WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE, IS BEING DONE TO VERIFY THAT EACH CABLE IS IN FACT THE CABLE CALLED FOR IN THE DESIGN AND SHOWN IN THE PLANT RECORDS. THE COMPANY PLANS TO PERIODICALLY ISSUE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE INSPECTION PROGRAM.

THE INVESTIGATION WAS ORGANIZED FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CABLE SUBSTITUTIONS IN SOME PARTS OF THE PLANT BY AN ANONYMOUS FORMER WORKER. THESE CHARGES WERE INITIALLY MADE LAST JUNE, BUT NO SPECIFIC DETAILS HAVE EVER BEEN PROVIDED TO CONSUMERS POWER. HOWEVER, RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE PROVIDED ENOUGH DETAIL SO THAT AN INSPECTION PLAN COULD BE GENERATED, COOK STATED.

COOK SAID UTILITY OFFICIALS HAVE TRIED REPEATEDLY OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS TO OBTAIN SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE AN INVESTIGATION. "THE COMPANY IS COMMITTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE PLANT ARE VALID AND TO CORRECT ANY PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED. THE FIRST RESULTS OF OUR REINSPECTION PROGRAM CARE INCONCLUSIVE REGARDING THE ALLEGATION AS WE UNDERSTAND IT BUT, AS NOTED, THE PROGRAM HAS IDENTIFIED AT LEAST ONE CABLE PACKAGE



WHICH CONTAINED ERRONEOUS CABLES."

CONSUMERS POWER HAS TRIED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE SELF-  
STYLED WHISTLE-BLOWER ORGANIZATION, THE GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
PROJECT, WHICH INITIALLY PUBLICIZED THE CHARGES LAST JUNE, FROM THE  
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WHICH WAS GIVEN AFFI-  
DAVITS BUT HAS NOT YET CONDUCTED ITS OWN INVESTIGATION, AND FROM  
NEWS REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE SEEN THE AFFIDAVITS AND HAVE PERIOD-  
ICALLY OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS ASKED THE COMPANY TO RESPOND TO THE  
CHARGES.

M G KOSCHIK  
END TU MB

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