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September 13, 1971

AIR MAIL

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Attention: Director, Division of
Reactor Licensing

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
2111 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, California

Attention: Director, Division of
Compliance - Region V

Re: Docket No. 50-133
License No. DPR-7
Facility Operating License
Section C.4.(a)

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Section C.4.(a) of the Humboldt Bay Unit No. 3 Facility Operating License, we are hereby notifying you that the emergency condenser condensate return valve did not operate during the routine test of September 3, 1971. Region V, Division of Compliance, was notified of this by telephone on September 3, 1971.

On June 5, 1971, the Unit was shut down as scheduled for refueling and maintenance. One item of maintenance was to rewind the DC motor on the emergency condenser condensate return valve to increase its locked rotor torque. This was done and the valve was tested satisfactorily several times at atmospheric pressure.

The valve was tested at an intermediate pressure during the startup of August 26, 1971, and again on August 27, 1971, at approximately rated operating pressure. The valve performed satisfactorily both times.

The next testing of the valve was done during the routine testing of all the motor operated isolation valves on September 3, 1971,

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and the valve failed to open electrically. The valve was manually operated in the open direction until a distinct "pop" was heard. (Refer to our letter dated February 9, 1971, and our semi-annual report for the first half of 1971, Section IV - Special Tests, for a complete history.) The valve was then only partially seated so that the gate was not wedged in its seat, and it was demonstrated that the valve opened and closed smoothly by remote electrical operation starting from this position. A temperature increase in the shell side of the emergency condenser indicated that the valve was not seated. The valve was tested in this condition until September 8, 1971.

On September 8, 1971, the vendor informed us as to the closing torque requirements and the torque switch was adjusted accordingly. Since that time, the valve has been tested remotely from the full closed position and its operation has been normal.

Very truly yours,

F. T. Searls