



Commonwealth Edison Company

ONE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450

WPW Ltr. #308-73

April 17, 1973



Mr. A. Giambusso
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR 25, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT #3,
SECTION 6.6.B.3 OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

This is to report a condition relating to the operation of the unit in which on April 9, 1973, a main steam line pressure switch setting was found to have drifted. Pressure switch PSL-3-261-30A was found tripping at 816 PSI which is below the Technical Specification limit of 850 PSI as described in Section 3.2.a.

PROBLEM AND INVESTIGATION

During a surveillance inspection of the main steam line low pressure switches the set point for Barksdale switch 3-261-30A was found to have drifted to 816 PSI. The switch had been previously set at 871 PSI. The purpose of the pressure switch is to sense a drop in pressure due to a break in a main steam line, and initiate a group I isolation. The electrical arrangement for a group I isolation initiation from a main steam line break is a one-out-of-two-twice logic. Therefore, it would have required two switch failures to prevent an isolation at 850 PSI.

Had a main steam line break occurred while the pressure setting of the PSL-3-261-30A switch was 816 PSI all the main steam isolation valves would have closed at 850 PSI. Thus, the failure of switch 3-261-30A did not present a hazard to the public safety since an isolation would have occurred at 850 PSI as designed.

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CORRECTIVE ACTION

The immediate corrective action was to reset the pressure switch setting to 872 PSI. The PSL-3-261-30A switch will be replaced prior to the unit startup due to its failure history (Reference our letter dated December 29, 1972).

In addition, this switch type is presently under investigation by the manufacturer and the Station Instrument Department to determine the cause of set point drift. Findings of the investigation will dictate future corrective actions.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Morris
for W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:TL:jw

cc: WPW Ltr. File