

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

OCT 31 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: L. S. Rubenstein, Acting Chief, Light Water Reactors Branch No. 4, DPM

FROM: Darl Hood, Project Manager, Light Water Reactors Branch No. 4, DPM

SUBJECT: TELECON FOR NOTIFICATION ON SUMP SCREEN DEFICIENCY

REFERENCE: "Summary of Trip to Observe Midland Sump Tests" dated 9/17/79

On 10/31/79 at 8:45 am I received a call from Messrs. Mike Salerno and Jim Zabritski of Consumers Power Company regarding the referenced trip summary of a staff visit to observe a containment sump test. The call was with regard to our requirement stated in the trip report that the B&W concern regarding core blockage must be further explained and evaluated.

Mr. Zabritski advised that our concern had been forwarded to B&W for resolution. Mr. Salerno confirmed that the requirement for a fine mesh (0.04 inch) sump screen results from a B&W concern resulting from trapping of fine particles (e.g., foam glass insulation) between the fuel spacer grid and fuel elements which is postulated to continue during the post-LOCA recirculation mode until fuel blockage in excess of that used in Appendix K analyses results. The addition of the fine screen in the Midland design results from the applicant's inability to verify that such a significant extent of blockage could not otherwise occur.

The concern was recognized to be generic to other PWR plants in addition to Midland. Messrs. Salerno and Zabritski were not aware of why other B&W plants did not have similar screens in response to the B&W concern.

The concern brings into question the conservativeness of LOCA analyses and assumptions. A prompt review should be performed to determine whether ASLB notifications are in order.

Original signed by:

Darl Hood, Project Manager  
 Light Water Reactors Branch No. 4  
 Division of Project Management

- cc: R. Mattson                      D. Vassallo                      V. Stello  
 S. Hanauer                      S. Varga                      H. Thornburg  
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DATE →	10/31/79	10/31/79				