

ML 203

November 14, 1979

H. Etherington, Chairman
B&W Water Reactors Subcommittee

SAFE SHUTDOWN BORATION CAPABILITY

According to the attached letter from Consumers Power Company, it took "an extensive review" of the Midland shutdown boration capability, to discover, on October 1, 1979, that the Midland design does not permit achieving and maintaining a $1\Delta k/k$ shutdown margin with safety grade equipment assuming "a most restrictive condition and the control rod of highest worth stuck out of the core."

I suggest that the circumstances surrounding this discovery be reviewed by the B&W Water Reactors Subcommittee to especially explore proposed fixes, but also to explore whether a similar extensive review should be performed on other B&W reactors. If you concur, please let me know and I will take the necessary steps to arrange a meeting of the Subcommittee.

Ragnwald Muller
Senior Staff Engineer

Attachment:
Consumers Power Company ltr.
Howe-283-79, of Oct. 31, 1979

cc: ACRS
Technical Staff

B408010204 B40718
PDR FOIA
RICEB4-96 PDR

FILE: *Muller*

OFFICE	ACRS				
SURNAME	RMuller/bos				
DATE	11-15-79				

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

LIAT 1979

May 4, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-101

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Consumers Power Company, Midland, Units 1 and 2
Midland, Michigan (DN 50-329 and DN 50-330)

Subject: CUT WIRES AT MIDLAND CONSTRUCTION SITE

Consumers Power notified the resident inspector that approximately 20 electrical wires were apparently cut intentionally in four safety and non-safety related panels in the control room at the Midland site. It appeared the wires were cut using electrical pliers. In addition, glass was found broken in six electrical relay covers.

The damage was found on the morning of May 3 by a Bechtel electrical foreman. The control room is not normally manned during the night shift. The licensee is currently reviewing the problem. No significant labor disputes have occurred recently.

Region III will monitor the licensee's investigation of the matter. Independent investigation by the NRC will be conducted if warranted.

No press release is planned by the licensee or the NRC at this time

The State of Michigan is being notified.

The resident inspector was notified of this problem at 1245 hours on May 3, 1979, by Consumers Power Company.

Contact: JBHenderson, IE, 27551; GWRreinmuth, IE, 27551

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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Consumers
Power
Company

Stephen H. Howell
Senior Vice President

General Offices: 1945 West Parnall Road, Jackson, Michigan 49201 • (517) 788-0453

October 31, 1979
Howe-283-79

Mr J G Keppler, Regional Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

MIDLAND NUCLEAR PLANT
UNIT NO 1, DOCKET NO 50-329
UNIT NO 2, DOCKET NO 50-330
SAFE SHUTDOWN BORATION CAPABILITY

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55(e), this letter constitutes an interim report concerning a potentially unsafe situation originally reported by a telephone call from B W Marguglio, CPCo QA-PE&C, to R Cook, NRC Resident Inspector, on October 2, 1979.

On October 1, 1979, Consumers Power Company received written notification from Babcock & Wilcox that the present Midland design does not permit achieving and maintaining a 1% $\Delta k/k$ shutdown margin with safety grade equipment assuming a most restrictive core condition and the control rod of highest worth stuck out of the core. This report resulted after an extensive review of the Midland shutdown boration capability. At present, several design changes, including hardware modifications and changes to boron concentration, are under consideration as remedies for this situation.

Another report, either interim or final, will be sent on or before January 29, 1980.

GRE/lr

CC: Director of Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Att: Mr Victor Stello, USNRC (15)

Director of Office of Management
Information and Program Control, USNRC (1)

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