

October 26, 1984
LD-84-063

Mr. Robert L. Baer, Chief
Division of Emergency Preparedness and
Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Excessive Drift of Setpoint Potentiometers

Reference: C-E Letter LD-84-050, A. E. Scherer to R. L. Baer, dated
September 10, 1984

Dear Mr. Baer:

In the reference letter, Combustion Engineering summarized the evaluation and corrective action taken regarding the excessive setpoint drift in some potentiometers in the Auxiliary Feedwater Actuation System (AFAS) cabinet at St. Lucie 2 and the Plant Protection System (PPS) cabinets at Palo Verde. This letter provides additional information on our evaluation with respect to other plants and clarifies the implication, in the reference letter, that only one production batch was involved.

In the evaluation of the St. Lucie 2 excessive setpoint drift (several hundred millivolts), it was determined that the problem with the subject potentiometers would become apparent shortly after initial use of the potentiometers and would be detected during startup testing or routine surveillance checks. It was concluded, therefore, that potentiometers from earlier production batches, which previously had been installed at other plants (ANO-2, SONGS-2/3, Waterford-3), did not have a similar defect.

For potentiometers from production batches subsequent to that for St. Lucie 2, testing has been performed. Setpoint drift in potentiometers for the WPPSS-3 PPS were within design specifications. For the WPPSS-5 PPS, four potentiometers showed drift slightly greater (a few millivolts) than design specifications and were replaced. Testing is also being done for potentiometers installed in the three Palo Verde PPS cabinets. Twelve potentiometers on Unit 1 exhibited drift slightly greater than the design specification and were replaced. Test results for Unit 2 will be evaluated,

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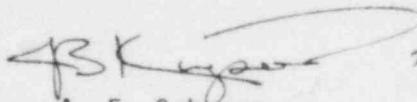
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with any needed potentiometer replacements expected to be completed in 1984.
For Unit 3, setpoint drifts were within specification.

If you would like to discuss the above information, please contact me or
Mr. S. E. Ritterbusch of my staff at (203) 285-5206.

Very truly yours,

 for AES

A. E. Scherer
Director
Nuclear Licensing

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