



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 21, 1986

Docket No. 50-155

Mr. Kenneth W. Berry
Director, Nuclear Licensing
Consumers Power Company
1945 West Parnall Road
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Dear Mr. Berry:

SUBJECT: REACTOR DEPRESSURIZATION SYSTEM, SYSTEM STABILITY, AND SCRAM
DISCHARGE (TAC 55071, 55072, 55073)

Re: Big Rock Point Plant

In May 1984, the Commission issued NUREG-0828, Integrated Plant Safety Assessment Report (IPSAR), for the Big Rock Point Plant (the facility). Section 5.0 of the IPSAR presents Non-Systematic Evaluation Program (SEP) Topic Reviews. This letter presents NRC staff current licensing activity for IPSAR Sections 5.3.1, Reactor Depressurization System Valve Reliability; 5.3.3, System Stability; and 5.3.8, Scram Discharge.

IPSAR Section 5.3.1, Reactor Depressurization System Valve Reliability, presents a discussion and evaluation of the present Reactor Depressurization System (RDS) at the facility. Studies resulting from the facility Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) and operating experience have shown the need for RDS reliability improvements. By letter dated February 28, 1986, Consumers Power Company (CPC) submitted facility Integrated Plan Semi-Annual Update No. 4. Issue E-082, RDS Reliability and Improvements is presented as an active issue with the highest ranking of all issues at the facility. The NRC staff concurs with the ranking of this issue and is anticipating expeditious efforts to improve the RDS reliability. Although CPC is not required to submit a report regarding this issue, I would appreciate that when a report is available, it be provided to me for information only. Our staff is attempting to gain experience in RDS reliability improvements for the facility. Since RDS related facility changes shall be performed under 10 CFR 50.59, this letter serves to complete current licensing activity under TAC 55071.

IPSAR Section 5.3.3, System Stability, presents a discussion and evaluation of certain nonsafety-related systems at the facility. These systems, although nonsafety-related, if improved, may reduce instability within the facility secondary system which in turn would reduce the number of challenges to safety-related systems. The staff restates herein that these type of facility modifications are important and encourages CPC to continue efforts in this area. Again, any facility changes related to system stability, will be performed under 10 CFR 50.59, therefore, this letter serves to complete current licensing activity under TAC 55072.

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IP SAR Section 5.3.8, Scram Discharge, presents a discussion and evaluation of the facility Scram Discharge Volume (SDV). Operating experience at the facility as well as at other BWRs has identified various problems with the SDV. To improve the reliability of the SDV, CPC has undertaken certain improvement projects for the facility. For example, additional scram dump tank valves are scheduled for installation during the 1986 facility refueling outage. NRC staff recognizes CPC's efforts in this area and encourages completion of this project. Again, any facility changes related to Scram Discharge will be performed under 10 CFR 50.59; therefore, this letter serves to complete current licensing activity under TAC 55073.

If your staff has questions regarding NRC staff activity for the subjects presented above, please direct them to the NRC Project Manager, Mr. Thomas S. Rotella.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

John A. Zwolinski, Director
BWR Project Directorate #1
Division of BWR Licensing

cc: See next page

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Mr. Kenneth W. Berry
Consumers Power Company

Big Rock Point Plant

cc:

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