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PCD

June 26, 1989

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Mr. A. Bert Davis
 Regional Administrator
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Region III
 799 Roosevelt Road
 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Subject: Quad Cities Station Unit 1
 Recirculation Pump Seal
 Monitoring and Action Plan
NRC Docket No. 50-254

Reference: June 22, 1989 Conference Call between CECO
 (R. Bax, G. Spedl, et al.) and Region III
 (W. Shafer, J. Harrison, R. Higgins).

Mr. Davis:

As requested by Mr. W.D. Shafer, enclosed is the Quad Cities monitoring and action plan for the inboard seal on Recirculation Pump 1B. As discussed in the referenced conference call, this seal is experiencing some degradation as indicated by a gradual increase in pressure (between the inboard and outboard seals) which has occurred over several weeks from a normal pressure of about 500 psi to a value of approximately 680 psi. The seal pressure trend has remained relatively constant with the pressure ranging from 660 psi to 700 psi, depending on load, since June 20, 1989. This situation has been closely monitored by the station including regular discussions of the seal status/trend at the morning Plan-of-the-Day meetings since June 12, 1989. In addition, the Corporate Office has been involved in the discussions with the Station regarding the seal and has monitored the seal status since June 12, 1989.

All data to date has indicated that only the first (inboard) seal has been affected. The gradual pressure increase is consistent with previous experience of over nineteen (19) years at Quad Cities where Recirculation Pump Seal degradation has been manageable via close monitoring and planned replacement during a scheduled outage. There has been only one Recirculation Pump Seal failure, requiring immediate action, in Quad Cities Station's operating

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history which occurred in the early 1970's during initial operation.

Further, it's important to note that the pump manufacturer was also consulted and indicated that previous recommendations remain appropriate for this type of seal behavior. These recommendations permit operation to continue up to a seal cavity pressure of 1000 psi. Additionally, General Electric, the Nuclear Steam System Supplier, has also reviewed the seal condition and they independently arrived at the same conclusion as the vendor.

As a result of input received from your staff in the referenced conference call, the enclosed action plan was developed. In addition to the provisions of the enclosed action plan, Commonwealth Edison would like to emphasize that it was our intention to replace this seal at the earliest feasible opportunity. That is, the seal will be replaced during the next regularly scheduled or unplanned outage of sufficient duration even if the action plan's replacement threshold has not yet been reached.

During the referenced conference call, the Clinton Unit 1 and Millstone Unit 1 recirculation pump seal failures were discussed. Commonwealth Edison would like to point out that we believe that the present seal degradation at Quad Cities is not similar to that experienced at Millstone and Clinton. Current seal degradation characteristics are similar to the characteristics experienced in the past due to normal service life expiration of the seal. CECO, therefore, believes that the approach, as described in the attached plan, is prudent and responsive to the staff concerns.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me or N. J. Kalivianakis of this office.

Very truly yours,

Dennis Galle 6/26/89

D. P. Galle
Vice President, BWR Operations

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Attachment

cc: T.M. Ross - Project Manager, NRR
R.L. Higgins - Senior Resident Inspector, Quad Cities

ATTACHMENT

QUAD CITIES 1B RECIRCULATION PUMP SEAL
MONITORING AND REPORTING ACTION PLAN

REQUIRED OPERATOR ACTION

1. Due to the apparent degradation of 1B recirculation pump No. 1 seal, for the 1B pump starting immediately and until the pump seal is replaced, perform the following monitoring:
 - a. On QOA 202-S1, record the drywell equipment sump gallons pumped every four hours.
 - b. On QOA 202-S1, record the 1B inboard and outboard seal temperature readings every four hours.
 - c. On QOA 202-S1, record the 1B seal pressure readings every four hours.

2. For an increasing trend in the drywell/equipment sump gallons pumped every four hours, or for an unexplained increasing trend in the inboard or outboard seal temperature readings taken every four hours, notify the station on-call duty person who will determine other notifications necessary and any corrective action to be taken.

3. When the No. 2 seal pressure of the 1B recirculation pump reaches 700 psig, and at 50 psig increments after 700 psig:
 - a. Notify the station on-call duty person.
 - b. The station on-call duty person will notify the Station Manager.
 - c. The Station Manager will notify either the BWR General Manager (Kalivianakis) or the Vice President (Galle).
 - d. The Corporate Office will notify the NRC of the pressure indication of the seal and any proposed corrective action decided upon.