

July 1, 2003

Mr. John L. Skolds, President
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station
and Dresden Nuclear Power Station
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: REACTOR STEAM DRYER DEGRADATION ISSUE

Dear Mr. Skolds:

We are responding to a letter dated June 27, 2003, signed by Keith R. Jury, Director-Licensing, of Exelon's Mid-West Regional Operating Group, regarding those actions planned in response to the steam dryer degradation found on Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2, after the unit was shut down on June 10, 2003.

In that letter, he identified several actions that Exelon was taking as a result of this dryer damage. Some of Exelon's committed actions, as we understand them, are as follows.

1. A startup and power ascension monitoring plan will be implemented to ensure that the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2 dryer repairs were effective and to establish a baseline of pertinent data for future analysis. The plan will include monitoring moisture carryover, key reactor parameters, main steam line vibration data, and loose parts monitor indications.
2. Daily monitoring of moisture carryover and other key reactor, and plant parameters will be implemented on Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2 and Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3 to provide early indication of potential dryer damage or structural integrity problems. If indications of steam dryer damage or structural integrity concerns are identified, power will be reduced on the affected unit to pre-extended power uprate levels and you will take further corrective actions. As discussed by your staff in previous conference calls with the NRC, you would consider moisture carryover approaching 0.3 percent or higher as indications of dryer damage. Your staff also discussed that you may see indications of dryer damage or structural integrity concerns before moisture carryover approach 0.3 percent.
3. Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2 will remain at the pre-extended power uprate operating level (2511 MW,) until: (1) the root cause of the dryer failure is completed; (2) the extent of condition on the reactor pressure vessel internal components and main steam line piping relative to the degradation mechanism that caused the dryer damage is completed, including the impact of operation at extended power uprate; and (3) a subsequent meeting is held with the NRC to fully understand the results of the root cause and extent of condition reviews.

4. Additional inspections will be performed during the next refueling outage on all four units. In addition, you will perform detailed finite element modeling of the steam dryer for each unit to determine the susceptible areas (inside and outside of hood) to inspect.

We look forward to meeting with you after you complete your investigations. Please contact Mark Ring at (630) 829-9703 to discuss an appropriate date and time for this meeting.

Sincerely,

/RA by S. Reynolds acting for/

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-254; 50-265; 50-237; 50-249
License Nos. DPR-29; DPR-30; DPR-19; DPR-25

cc w/encl: Site Vice President - Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station
 Site Vice President - Dresden Nuclear Power Station
 Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station Plant Manager
 Dresden Nuclear Power Station Plant Manager
 Regulatory Assurance Manager - Quad Cities
 Regulatory Assurance Manager - Dresden
 Chief Operating Officer
 Senior Vice President - Nuclear Services
 Senior Vice President - Mid-West Regional
 Operating Group
 Vice President - Mid-West Operations Support
 Vice President - Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
 Director Licensing - Mid-West Regional
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