



**Consumers  
Power  
Company**

Stephen H. Howell  
Senior Vice President

General Offices: 1945 West Parnell 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)

1292 193

7911 070 419