

DUKE POWER COMPANY

P.O. BOX 33189
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28242

HAL B. TUCKER
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

April 28, 1983

TELEPHONE
(704) 373-4531

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: T. H. Novak

Re: McGuire Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-369, 50-370

This letter is provided to clarify information related to reactor trip breakers (RTB) as reported in our letters of February 28, 1983, March 1, 1983, and March 22, 1983. The following information was provided:

The February 28, 1983 letter stated that no RTB failures had occurred. The March 1, 1983 letter corrected the previous letter by stating that a failure of one Unit 2 RTB to trip had occurred during preoperational testing of the Reactor Protection System (RPS). The March 22, 1983 letter in response to IE Bulletin 83-04 stated that failure of one Unit 2 RTB occurred on five occasions in early 1983.

In responding to an NRC staff request on February 28, 1983 related to the Unit 2 license review, a quick review was performed by station personnel and no RTB failures were identified or documented. On February 28, 1983 after the letter was submitted, an individual remembered that a failure may have occurred during pre-operational testing of the RPS on Unit 2. At the time of the event, whether a failure had actually occurred was not clear. This is due to the fact that no problems were found with the RTB when investigated by maintenance personnel on February 18, 1983. Nevertheless, the event was reported in the March 1, 1983 letter as a potential failure.

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ADD: Accurate details of the apparent failure were not documented as a test discrepancy because the specific test was not intended to verify RTB operation and, therefore, the failure did not involve a failure to meet the test acceptance criteria. A work request for repair was initiated, but as stated previously, no further problems were found. Because of the lack of documentation of the event, recollection by station personnel was necessary to identify the event. Please note that the event was not reportable to the NRC under Technical Specifications because Unit 2 did not hold an operating license. Also, reportability under 10 CFR 50.55(e) was not required because there was no reason to suspect a design or construction deficiency.

E. Adelman
T. Novak
J. Beard
V. Noonan
R. B. Rite

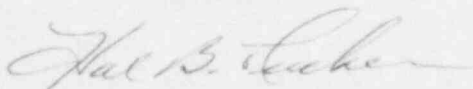
The March 22, 1983 letter stated that RTB failure had occurred on five occasions in early 1983. This apparent discrepancy is attributable to the fact that different

Harold R. Denton
April 28, 1983
Page 2

persons describing their recollection of the event used different definitions of "failures". For example, failure to trip upon five consecutive attempts was considered to be five failures. Investigation of subsequent failures has shown that once a failure to trip via the undervoltage (UV) attachment has occurred, further attempts to trip the RTB by the UV attachment will not execute until the RTB is tripped via the shunt coil attachment, thus freeing the UV attachment. Therefore, the five consecutive failures to trip the RTB are considered to be a single failure.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the differences in the aforementioned letters.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

REH:jfw

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. W. T. Orders
NRC Resident Inspector
McGuire Nuclear Station