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BBS Ltr. #339-75

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
June 3, 1975

Mr. James G. Keppler, Regional Director
Directorate of Regulatory Operation-Region III
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

SUBJECT: REPORT OF ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE PER SECTION 6.6.A OF THE TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATIONS
2-203-3B ELECTROMATIC RELIEF VALVE FAILURE

- References:
- 1) Regulatory Guide 1.16 Rev. 1 Appendix A
 - 2) Notification of Region III of U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Telephone: Mr. Knop, 1600 hours on May 26, 1975
Telegram: Mr. Keppler, 0830 hours on May 27, 1975
 - 3) Drawing Number M-12

Report Number: 50-237/75-32

Report Date: June 3, 1975

Occurrence Date: May 26, 1975

Facility: Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Morris, Illinois

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE

The electromatic relief valve 203-3B failed to open during post-maintenance testing of electromatic relief valves.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE

The reactor was in the start-up mode at 150 psig.

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE

At 0030 hours on May 26, 1975, relief valve 203-3B was actuated from the control room manually to verify operability. The pilot valve for the relief valve indicated a temperature increase when actuated. However, the main steam bypass valve, which was bypassing the steam to the condenser, did not close when the relief valve was actuated. The maintenance foreman entered the drywell and verified that the pilot valve was indeed opening, but that the main relief valve was remaining closed.

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The 3B valve was again tested at a reactor pressure of approximately 300 psig. The valve again failed to show a decrease in bypass valve opening but did exhibit a temperature increase downstream of the pilot valve. At this time the valve was declared inoperable and the HPCI surveillance was started.

DESIGNATION OF APPARENT CAUSE (Component Failure)

The cause of the problem at this time is unknown since the reactor is operating with all required surveillances completed. Unit-2 will operate up to 30 days in this condition and then shutdown for repair. This is allowed by Sect. 3.5.D.2 of the Technical Specifications. The cause will then be determined and a supplemental report submitted.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE

Prior to this failure, on May 20, 1975, electromatic relief valve 203-3C failed to operate during post-maintenance surveillance at a rated reactor pressure (See report no. 50-237/75-30). As a result of this failure, a drywell entry was made upon subsequent shutdown, revealing that the operating arm for the pilot valve was out of adjustment. All valve operating arms were adjusted and the reactor was brought to criticality. Valve 3B had operated successfully on the first surveillance test and also after the pilot arm adjustments were made. All valves had been completely overhauled, including pilot valves and main valves, during the Unit-2 refueling outage. A modification was also made to the main valve retaining disc locking wire. A castellated nut and cotter key were installed, per Dresser Valve recommendations, to prevent the locking wire from loosening and obstructing operation of the valves.

All required surveillances were successfully completed after the failure of the 3B valve. Since all other valves operated properly and the HPCI system surveillance test was successful, reactor operation was continued without undue risk to the health and safety of the plant personnel and the public.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Corrective action will be determined when the reactor is shut down within 30 days and the 203-3B valve is examined for the cause of failure. A supplemental follow-up report will be submitted.

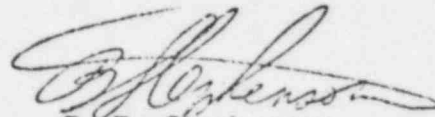
FAILURE DATA

A similar failure occurred on Unit-3 on January 16, 1974 as reported in letter #57-74. At that time the failure was attributed to damaged disc retainer threads. The disc retainer, being cocked in the valve, prevented operation of the valve.

During the refueling outage on Unit-2, a modification to prevent this type of occurrence had been installed on all electromatic relief valves.

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The electromatic relief valves are 6" valves, catalogue no. 1525-VX, manufactured by Dresser Industrial Valve.



B. B. Stephenson
Superintendent

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