

Commonwealth Edison Company

ONE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Address Reply to:

POST OFFICE BOX 767 ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

WPW Ltr.#293-73

Dresden Nuclear Power Station

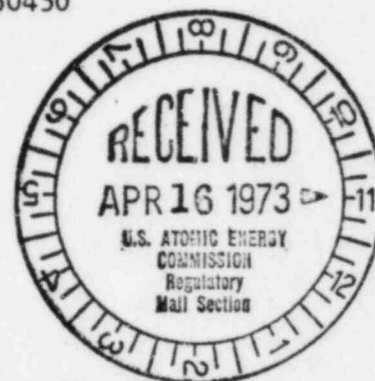
R. R. #1

Morris, Illinois 60450

April 13, 1973

Mr. A. Giambusso
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

50-237



SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR-19, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT #2,
SECTION 6.6.B.3 OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

This is to report a condition relating to the operation of the unit in which on April 5, 1973, the supply breaker for the isolation condenser valve MO-2-1301-1 was found tripped, thus rendering the system inoperable as specified in the Technical Specifications Section 3.7.D.1.

PROBLEM AND INVESTIGATION

On April 5, 1973, at 0900 hours, position indicating lights for the isolation condenser valve MO-2-1301-1 were found to be out. Several checks were made in the control room, which indicated the problem was at the supply bus for the valve. A check of the supply breaker for the valve revealed that it had tripped.

The breaker and overloads were then removed and tested. The test showed that both the breaker and the overload operated correctly. The equipment was then reinstalled and the valve returned to service.

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the valve had been cycled on April 4, 1973 between 1600 and 1730, and is believed to have tripped at this time. At approximately 1800, it was noted that the light was out, but erroneously attributed this to a problem with the light socket. It is believed that the breaker trip can be attributed to the cycling of the valve during line break sensor surveillance. During each cycle of the valve, power is applied to the breaker trip mechanism. Each time that power is applied to the load trip device, the magnetic trip levers contact

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the trip bar with sufficient force to partially disengage the trip mechanism. The result of this action is that the current at which the breaker opens is at a much lower value than its design trip setting.

The function of the 1301-1 valve is to isolate the reactor from the isolation condenser in the event an isolation condenser steam line break should occur. Since the 1301-1 valve failed in the open position, it would not have been able to perform its isolation function. Had an isolation condenser steam line break occurred in the relatively short length of pipe between the 1301-1 and 1301-2 valves, no isolation protection would have been available, however, the 1301-2 valve would have provided protection for downstream line breaks.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

A sample breaker has been sent to the manufacturer for analysis as a result of a similar failure reported in our letter dated March 23, 1973. The results of the breaker analysis will dictate future corrective action.

Additionally, discussions with representatives of our Electrical Engineering Department are in progress to formulate a program to remedy the problems which have been experienced with breakers, torque switch settings, and overload ratings. The program is expected to be formulated by June 1, 1973.

In the meantime, the station will review the line break sensor surveillance procedures to see if it is possible to reduce valve cycles during this testing.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Morris
for W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:do

cc: WPW Ltr. File