



Commonwealth Edison Company

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Address Reply to:

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

December 2, 1970

Dr. Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR-19 DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT #2, SECTION 6.6.C.1 OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Dear Dr. Morris:

This is to report a condition relating to the operation of the station when during routine surveillance #2 Standby Diesel Generator failed to start following a manual initiation signal.

Problem, Investigation and Corrective Action

On November 2, 1970, while conducting routine surveillance on the Unit 2 Diesel Generator, the diesel failed to start following a manual start signal.

Investigation revealed that the pinion gear on the lower starting air motor had failed to engage the engine ring gear, thus preventing the normal start sequence of the diesel starting air motors. The probable cause for the failure was an accumulation of oil and scale found beneath the seat of the starting air solenoid valve, which prevented proper engagement of the starting air motor pinion gear.

The starting air solenoid valve was disassembled, cleaned and returned to service and the lower pinion gear was repositioned to allow proper engagement with the engine ring gear. The diesel was then returned to service and successfully restarted three times to verify its operability. During the period the Unit #2 diesel was unavailable, the Unit 2/3 diesel was started and loaded to prove its operability in accordance with Section 3.9.B.2 of the Technical Specifications. The total time that Unit #2 diesel was unavailable was less than 12 hours. The bendix drive and solenoid will be inspected in the near future on both the Unit 2 and 2/3 diesels.

IS/O'R/Staff 12/9/70
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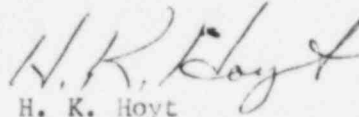
50-237 Incident
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Dr. Peter A. Morris

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The failure of the solenoid valve to seat maintained a constant pressure against the lower pinion gear and combined with previous running of the engine had also worn some of the bevel off the pinion gear.



H. K. Hoyt
Superintendent

HKH:dmc

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