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Commonwealth Edison Company

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WPW Ltr.#244-73

Dresden Nuclear Power Station

R. R. #1

Morris, Illinois 60450

March 29, 1973



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

SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR 19-25, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3
SECTION 6.6.B.3 OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

This is to report a condition relating to the operation of the station in which on March 20, 1973, the Radwaste Waste Surge Tank was found to contain 5.6 curies which exceeds the Technical Specification limit as stated in Section 3.8.D.

PROBLEM AND INVESTIGATION

The following circumstances led to the Waste Surge Tank content of 5.6 curies:

"A" waste collector filter had been taken out-of-service on March 13, 1973 due to suspected crud leaks in the filter septums. On March 19, 1973 at 2110, "B" waste collector filter and the Radwaste demineralizer were taken out-of-service due to high differential pressure across the filter. Steam cleaning of "B" filter was required. Also at 2110 the water level in the Waste Collector Tank reached 80 percent and continued increasing.

In order to decrease tank level, water from the Waste Collector Tank was transferred to the Waste Surge Tank without the decontamination factor provided by the filter and demineralizer.

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March 29, 1973

At 0015 on March 20, 1973, the Waste Surge Tank was placed on recirculation for a sample. At 0130 hours, a sample from the Waste Surge Tank was taken and the analysis indicated 4.3×10^7 uCi/l and a tank curie content of 5.6 curies. Initial action taken to eliminate the problem consisted of steam cleaning of "B" Waste Collector Filter and placing the filter and demineralizer back in service. At 0926 on March 20, 1973, the Waste Surge Tank was processed through the filter and demineralizer to "C" Waste Sample Tank. Sample results from "C" Waste Sample Tank at 1400 hours indicated the tank curie content was below Technical Specification limits.

The presence of 5.6 curies of $\beta\gamma$ radioactivity in the water in the above ground tanks did not present a hazard to the public since the contents of the tank were not released to the river and the tank $\beta\gamma$ radioactivity was reduced to less than Technical Specification limits within 13 hours following collection and analysis of the first sample. Had a failure of the Waste Surge Tank occurred, as described in Admendment #9, Section V.C.1 of the S.A.R., and the radioactivity contained in the tank been released to the aquatic environment, the limits as specified in 10 CFR 20.106 would not have been exceeded when averaged over one year.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

In order to minimize the potential for future incidents of this nature, a procedure will be issued by April 3, 1973, requiring sample analysis and calculations of curie content prior to processing the Waste Collector Tank to above ground radwaste storage tanks without the use of either a Waste Collector Filter or the Radwaste Demineralizer.

Sincerely,

W. P. Worden

W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:do