

January 27, 1972

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

Subject: Detection of inoperative bistable during  
monthly surveillance test  
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant Unit No. 1  
Docket No. 50-244



Dear Dr. Morris:

On January 18, 1972 during the routine monthly PT-5 Surveillance Test (Periodic Test - Process Instrumentation Reactor Trip Channels) a pressurizer pressure bistable failed to de-energize on the low pressure set point of 1715 psig.

This bistable (PC-429 D/C) has a dual acting function and did automatically unblock the safety injection signal from the single channel of increasing pressurizer pressure (PC-429 D). However, the simulated signal did not result in the parallel output that would permit the logic input to safety injection from the second channel (PC-429 C) because of the bistable failure to de-energize. This failure defeated one of the three channels of redundancy provided in the low pressurizer pressure - low pressurizer level protection channels.

In the previous monthly surveillance of December 17, 1971 this channel (PC 429 C) and the bistable (PC-429 D/C), as well as the others, performed normally.

The Plant Operating Review Committee met immediately and approved the use of the provisions in procedure PT-5 to replace the failed bistable with a tested replacement. This was completed, including the channel rechecking, shortly afterwards on this same date and all channels were proven out and left in proper working order.

The removed bistable, on test, was found to have a fluctuating output when placed on a trip point. Several components within the bistable were replaced and the bistable functioned properly. Reinserting the removed components, one at a time, failed to isolate the original source

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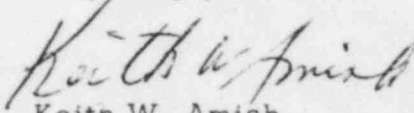
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of trouble. With no previous history of failure, it is now believed that that malfunction may have been caused by a random failure of a cold soldered joint.

This unit is still under test. Because of the failure to absolutely identify the reason for the malfunction, this bistable will not be reused in the reactor protection channels and will be so identified.

Very truly yours,

  
Keith W. Amish