50-237

Commonwealth Edison Company

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

WPW Ltr. #84-73

January 31, 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, 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 January 23, 1973, the setpoint of one of the condenser low vacuum scram switches was found below the limit defined in Table 3.1.1 of the Technical Specifications.

PROBLEM AND INVESTIGATION

On January 23, 1973, during a routine quarterly calibration, one of the four condenser low vacuum scram switches was found tripping below the Tech. Spec. limit of $\geq$ 23 inches of mercury. This is the first time the subject switch has drifted below this limit.

The subject switch, PS-2-503, was previously set at 23.31 inches of mercury on October 16, 1972. On the above date, this switch was found tripping at 22.45 inches of mercury. This slight drift would have little or no effect on the safe shutdown of the reactor.

The switch is a vacuum operated Barksdale model D1T-H18SS, with an adjustable range of .4 - 18 psig and a setpoint accuracy of $\pm$ 1%. ($\pm$ .37 inches of mercury)

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Original

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The switch was immediately recalibrated and left at 23.25 inches of mercury.

After reviewing Barksdales specifications, it was found that this model switch has a setpoint accuracy of ± .37 inches of mercury, almost twice the tolerance that the station is now allowing. Dresden's setpoint limits are currently 23.3 ± .2 inches of mercury for all eight condenser low vacuum switches on both units 2 and 3.

As a temporary step to correct this problem, the station limits for condenser low vacuum scram switches on both Unit 2 and Unit 3 will be changed to 23.7 ± .2 inches of mercury, allowing for nominal drift within the accuracy of the instrument.

The investigation of switch setpoint drift will continue until the problem has been resolved.

Sincerely,

W. P. Worden

W. P. Worden
Station Superintendent

WPW:CEW:do

cc: WPW Ltr. File