



Commonwealth Edison Company

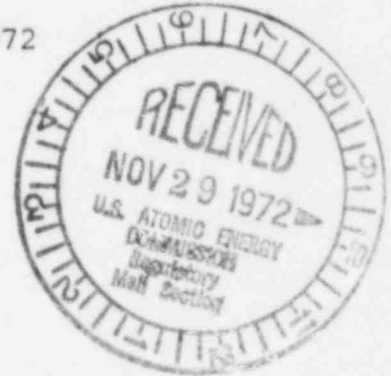
ONE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Address Reply to:

POST OFFICE BOX 767 ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

November 27, 1972

Mr. Donald J. Skovholt
Assistant Director for
Operating Reactors
Directorate of Licensing
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545



Subject: Delay in Submittal of Torus Baffle Studies
on Dresden Units 2 and 3, AEC Dkt Nos.
50-237 and 50-249

Dear Mr. Skovholt:

Your letter of August 2, 1972 requested information concerning the torus baffles presently installed in Dresden Units 2 and 3. It was anticipated that a full response would be available for you before November 1, 1972 so no notification had been sent to you indicating when the report would be submitted. The report is still not available and the delay has been caused by other subjects, such as the torus hanger problem at Quad-Cities, which have received a higher priority from both Commonwealth Edison and the General Electric Company in work assignments. The expected submittal date for the report is now February 1, 1973.

Commonwealth Edison is discussing with General Electric the desirability of removing the torus baffles from Dresden 2 and 3 at the next refueling outage for each unit. As a result, a safety evaluation has been prepared to verify that continued operation with the torus baffles installed is prudent. This evaluation is attached.

One signed original and 39 copies of this letter are provided for your use.

Very truly yours,

6521

L.D. Butterfield, Jr.
L.D. Butterfield, Jr.

Nuclear Licensing Administrator

8304220195 730716
PDR ADOCK 05000237
PDR
P

COPY SENT REGION *[Signature]*

SAFETY EVALUATION

Safety Review

There are three potential concerns associated with operation with loose baffles which will be discussed in the following three items.

1. Interference with LOCA Blowdown

There is no potential for baffles to break up into sections or pieces because they are composed of I beams or channels solidly welded together. Analyses for other plants have shown that the course of a blowdown and containment pressure response to a LOCA will not be affected by loss of baffling. This has been a subject on several dockets and is not an issue or a problem with the AEC. Also, because there are other baffles between those which could possibly fail and the downcomers from the drywall, there is no concern about damage to the downcomers from loose baffles. The mechanism for baffle damage is apparently the sudden expulsion of cold air from the relief discharge pipe. If bolts connecting the baffles to the torus fail first, the entire baffle is moved away from the RV discharge and falls to the bottom of the torus. This cannot occur in a LOCA (DBA) where an air and steam mixture is moving in a relatively slow fashion from the drywell to the wetwell. Thus, damage to baffles next to downcomers during a LOCA need not be considered.

2. Damage to Torus Walls

A question could be raised concerning damage to the torus walls due to loose baffles. Because the baffles remain in one, heavy piece and are moved out of the area of high forces, the probability of further movement to cause damage is minimal. Examinations at plants where baffles have previously come loose have confirmed that effects consist of surface marring and abrasion of paint. Only repainting was required. Therefore, there is no reason for undue concern relative to this mode of failure.

3. Damage to Other Equipment In the Torus

The only other equipment of interest in the torus are the suction intakes to the ECCS pumps. These are protected by heavy baskets made of metal plates, perforated with many inlet holes and forming about a 1' right cylinder. Although they are not in the path of likely baffle movement, contact

and damage could be postulated. Because the baffles are very large and would tend to remain in one piece, there is no apparent mechanism for plugging. In any case, loss (or plugging) of one inlet strainer has been taken into account in the design and the remaining strainers are ample to fulfill ECCS requirements. Therefore, there is no reason for undue concern relative to this mode of failure.

Summary

In summary, Commonwealth Edison concludes that continued operation is justified for an interim period until such time as a planned outage is available to remove baffles.