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Quad-Cities Nuclear Power Station  
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BBS-72-26



December 20, 1972

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

Reference: Quad-Cities Nuclear Power Station Unit 1,  
Docket No. 50-254, DPR-29 Appendix A, Sections  
1.0.A.2, 3.5.B, and 6.6.B.3.

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the details regarding the small fire encountered in the 1B RHR service water pump motor. The fire took place at approximately 10:00 a.m. on December 10, 1972.

DESCRIPTION OF FIRE

At the time of the fire the Unit 1 reactor was operating under steady state conditions at approximately 90% power. Contractors, working on the construction of the Condensate pump room flood protection modification, were welding and flame cutting in the immediate vicinity of the pump when they noticed traces of smoke coming from within the motor housing. Closer observation revealed a small open flame within the motor between the stator windings and the motor housing. The contractors immediately extinguished the flames and notified operating personnel in the control room. The 1B RHR service water pump and its corresponding motor heater were taken out of service and the three remaining RHR service water pumps were demonstrated to be operable in accordance with Technical Specification 4.5.B.2.

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INVESTIGATION

Initially it was suspected that the fire started due to an electrical fault. Subsequent meggering of the motor leads both from phase to phase and each phase to ground gave normal results indicating no problems with the electrical wiring and insulation. Further investigation disclosed an oil soaked portion of fiberglass noise absorbing insulation, on top of the stator, between the stator windings and the motor housing. The only visible damage sustained by the motor was a small portion of charred insulation and some of the varnish coating on the stator windings was slightly discolored.

The motor bearings and seals were inspected and the motor was found to be mechanically sound and in normal operating condition. The source of the oil which soaked the insulation cannot be definitely identified. However, it is a possibility that the oil soaked insulation was a result of the condensate pump room flood which occurred on June 9, 1972.

The final conclusion to be drawn is that the fire was started by sparks from the welding and cutting operations which were blown into the motor by a nearby fan which was blowing in the direction of the motor.

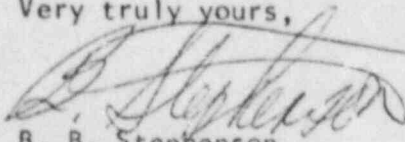
CORRECTIVE ACTION

The oil soaked insulation on the 1B RHR service water pump was removed and replaced with new, and the motor thoroughly inspected. After reassembly the motor was functionally tested and performed satisfactorily.

The remaining RHR service water pumps, 1A, C, and D, were also inspected and found to be clean, dry, and in excellent condition.

No further action on the fire is anticipated at this time.

Very truly yours,



B. B. Stephenson  
Superintendent

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