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BB3 Ltr. #579-75

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
September 4, 1975



Mr. James G. Keppler, Regional Director
Directorate of Regulatory Operation-Region III
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

SUBJECT: REPORT OF ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE PER SECTION 6.6.A OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
REACTOR PRESSURE 600 PSI SWITCH SETPOINT DRIFT

- References: 1) Regulatory Guide 1.16 Rev. 1 Appendix A
- 2) Notification of Region III of U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Telephone: P. Johnson, 0920 hours on August 28, 1975
Telegram: J. Keppler, 1045 hours on August 28, 1975
- 3) Drawing Number: 12E2465

Report Number: 50-249/75-40

Report Date: September 4, 1975

Occurrence Date: August 27, 1975

Facility: Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Morris, Illinois

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE

On August 27, 1975, during routine instrument surveillance, pressure switches PS3-263-51A and -51B were found with setpoints above the Technical Specification limit of ≤ 600 psi.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE

Unit-3 was in the shutdown mode for a refueling outage.

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September 4, 1975

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE

Pressure switches 263-51A and -51B were found with setpoints of 605 psi and 615 psi respectively. The switches permit the Low Condenser Vacuum and Main Steam Line Valve Closure scram signals to be bypassed when reactor pressure is less than 600 psi.

DESIGNATION OF APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE (Unusual Service Conditions)

Long periods at zero pressure apparently allow instrument setpoints to drift significantly out of calibration. The definitive cause of setpoint drift has not been established.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE

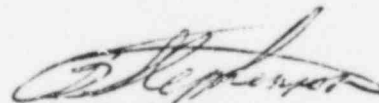
The setpoints of switches 263-51A and -51B had last been checked on March 8, 1975. Both switches were within the station limits at that time, five weeks before the unit shutdown for refueling. Because the switches have been demonstrably reliable between routine surveillances, it is considered unlikely that any significant setpoint drift occurred during operation. In any event, the setpoint values "as found" would have provided a scram permissive at 605 psi. Consequently, the public was not endangered by this occurrence.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The switches were immediately reset to within the station limit of 580 ± 5 psi. Additional action will be taken as definitive drift causes are identified.

FAILURE DATA

Pressure switches 263-51A and -51B are Meletron Model 372 pressure sensors with a range of 28-1400 psi. These switches have had a history of setpoint drifting at Dresden. Station evaluation of replacement instrumentation is continuing.



B. B. Stephenson
Superintendent

BBS:WEH:smp

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