



Commonwealth Edison  
One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois  
Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767  
Chicago, Illinois 60690

BBS Ltr. #166

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

March 18, 1975

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

SUBJECT: REPORT OF ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE PER SECTION 6.6.A OF THE TECHNICAL  
SPECIFICATIONS  
UNIT 3 DIESEL GENERATOR INOPERABLE

Reference: 1) Regulatory Guide 1.16 Rev 1. Appendix A

- 2) Notification of Region III of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Telephone: P. Johnson, 1030 hrs, 10 Mar 75  
Telegram: J. G. Keppler, 1040 hrs, 10 Mar 75

Report Number: <sup>249</sup>50-294/75-14

Report Date: March 18, 1975

Occurrence Date: March 10, 1975

Facility: Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Morris, IL

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE

Unit 3 Diesel Generator found inoperable.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE

Prior to the occurrence Unit 3 was in the Run mode with a thermal power of 1311 megawatts and a steady state electrical load of 416 megawatts.

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE

A review of the unit log books and surveillance records has determined that the following sequence of events occurred:

March 4, 1975

In order to perform a monthly inspection of the 2/3 diesel generator, the Unit 3 diesel generator was checked for operability at 0325 hrs on March 4, 1975.

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The procedure for the diesel generator consisted of two sections. The first section required that the diesel be started and operated approximately one half hour. The second section required that the diesel air start motor operability be checked. For the second section the procedure calls for both air receiving tank outlet valves to be temporarily closed. It is believed that at this time the outlet valves were inadvertently left closed making the Unit 3 diesel generator impossible.

At about 0500 hrs on March 4, 1975, the Unit 2/3 diesel generator was removed from service in order to perform a monthly inspection. The monthly inspection was completed at 0353 hrs on March 5, 1975 and the diesel generator was returned to service.

#### March 10, 1975

On March 10, 1975, at about 0840 hrs an operator in the area of the Unit 3 diesel generator heard air blowing inside the diesel room. On inspection it was discovered that the air receiving tank outlet valves were closed, and that the diesel generator was inoperable.

#### DESIGNATION OF APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE (PERSONNEL ERROR)

The cause of the problem is considered to be operator error.

#### ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE

While both diesels were out of service, all off site power lines were available, all Unit 3 battery systems were operational, and a tie line between Unit 2/ Unit 3 was available, if required.

There are two conditions which contribute to allowing an operator to make this error, the first being the sequence of testing for the diesel generator operability test and the second being the location of low air pressure sensors. Concerning the diesel generator operability check, the procedure calls for the air start motor operability to be checked after the diesel operability check. In this test sequence any errors in the air start motor operability test will not be found during a diesel operability test. In regards to the location of the low air pressure sensors, these sensors are presently located upstream of the air receiving tank outlet valves. In this location the outlet valves could be closed and the sensors would fail to pick up low air pressure to the air start motors.

#### CORRECTIVE ACTION

The immediate corrective action taken was to return the Unit 3 diesel generator to service. The diesel generator operability check is also going to be changed so that the air start pressure will be tested prior to an operability run on the diesel. In addition the location of the low air pressure sensors will be relocated to a position down stream of the receiving tank outlet valves.

March 18, 1975

FAILURE DATA

Review of past diesel generator failures disclosed no record of an inoperable diesel due to a closure of the receiving tank outlet valves.

Sincerely,



B. E. Stephenson  
Superintendent  
Dresden Nuclear Power Station

BBS:TEL:slb