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EES Ltr. #127-75

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
March 3, 1975

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

SUBJECT: REPORT OF UNUSUAL EVENT PER SECTION 6.6.C OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
FAILURE OF HYDRAULIC PIPE SUPPRESSOR

Reference: 1. Regulatory Guide 1.16 Rev. 2 Appendix A

2. Notification of Region III of U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Telephone: Mr. P. Johnson, 1530 hours on February 18, 1975
Telegram: Mr. J. Keppler, 1530 hours on February 18, 1975

Report Number: 50-249/75-7

Report Date: March 3, 1975

Occurrence Date: February 16, 1975

Facility: Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Morris, Illinois

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE

Failure of a unit 3 drywell hydraulic pipe suppressor.

CONDITION PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE

Dresden Station Unit 3 came off line on February 14, 1975 and went to the cold shutdown condition in order to check the core spray system per IE Bulletin 75-01. Since the unit was to be shutdown for greater than 24 hours, and the previous inspection occurred more than 30 days prior to February 14, 1975, a pipe suppressor inspection was performed.

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE

During the week end of February 14, 1975 a drywell snubber inspection was performed on Unit 3. The inspection revealed that one Bergen-Patterson snubber on the HPCI steam supply line had lost all its hydraulic fluid.

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DESIGNATION OF APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE (Equipment Failure)

On disassembly of the failed snubber the following discrepancies were found. 1) Two "O" rings were missing from the check valve assembly and its associated tubing. 2) The zirc fitting used to add hydraulic fluid to the snubber was found to leak through. It is believed that the missing "O" rings were not installed during the snubbers last overhaul which was in April of 1974. The failure of the zirc fitting is believed to be the primary cause of the loss of hydraulic fluid. The location of the snubber when installed in the drywell would place the zirc fitting at the bottom of the accumulator. In this position all the hydraulic fluid would drain from the accumulator.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE

The failure of the hydraulic snubber did not place the safety of the plant or public in jeopardy. The failure of one hydraulic snubber on a particular line does necessarily adversely affect the ability of a system to function following a seismic event. In addition, all other safety systems were operational during the failure of the hydraulic snubber.

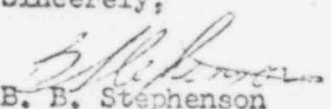
CORRECTIVE ACTION

In regards to the missing "O" rings it was discovered that the present repair and overhaul procedure did not list them on the check off sheet. A new procedure has been written and will become effective by March 15, 1975. Concerning the failure of the zirc fitting, the fittings will be checked for leakage following any addition of hydraulic fluid.

FAILURE DATA

The Bergen-Patterson hydraulic snubbers have had a history of failures associated with their use in the drywell area.

Sincerely,


B. B. Stephenson
Superintendent

BBS:TEL:smp

File/AEC