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March 26, 1974

Mr. John F. O'Leary, Director
Directorate of Licensing
US Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, DC 20545



Re: Docket 50-255
License DPR-20

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This letter is written to inform you of an abnormal occurrence at the Palisades Plant which involved the reactor protective system high containment pressure trip function. This abnormal occurrence was discovered on March 16, 1974, while performing routine refueling surveillance testing of the high containment pressure trip function. Three of the four pressure switches were found to have a set point outside of the limits specified in Table 2.3.1 (≤ 5 psig) of the Technical Specifications.

The as-found set points for the high containment pressure trip function of the reactor protective system were:

| <u>Tag No</u> | <u>Function</u> | <u>As-Found Set Point (Psig)</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| PS-1801 | RPS Channel A | 5.40 |
| PS-1802 | RPS Channel B | 5.70 |
| PS-1803 | RPS Channel C | 5.35 |
| PS-1804 | RPS Channel D | 4.85 |

During review of this abnormal occurrence, it was determined that the set point specified in Table 3.16.1, "Engineered Safety Features System Initiation Instrument Setting Limits," for the high containment is meaningless. The set point is specified as less than or equal to 5 psig (plus 0.75 minus 0.25). If this set point is interpreted "within the tolerance band" and not "less than or equal to," one of the pressure switches for the high containment pressure engineered safety features system initiation set point was below the allowable tolerance band (4.50 psig).

The cause of this abnormal occurrence was that the previous calibration and set points did not provide sufficient margin for instrument drift. The calibration did not take account for the drift that might be expected from the type of pressure switches that are installed at the Palisades Plant. The maximum drift over the period between calibrations (8/27/72 to 3/19/74) was 0.7 psi.

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