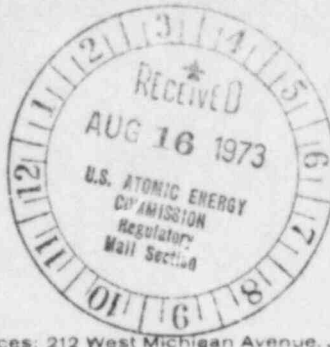


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Consumers  
Power  
Company

General Offices: 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201 • Area Code 517 788-0550

August 13, 1973

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

Re: Docket 50-255  
License DPR-20  
AO-5 Thru 7-73

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This letter is written to report three abnormal occurrences at the Palisades Plant. Two of these three events, the failure of a coupling on a component cooling water pump and low frequency operation of a diesel generator, occurred on July 27, 1973. The third, a variation in the thermal margin/low-pressure trip set point (one of four channels) was discovered on August 3, 1973. All three events were reported to Regulatory Operations, Region III, within 24 hours as required by Section 6.6.1 of the Technical Specifications. At the time each one of these events occurred, the reactor was operating at about 100% power.

Component Cooling Water Pump Coupling Failure

On July 27, component cooling water pump P52C was observed to be noisy. During a test start conducted while attempting to locate the source of the noise, the motor-pump coupling failed. Further investigations revealed sections of teeth on both the hub and outer piece of the motor half of the coupling were stripped away.

A new coupling was procured and installed. Reshimming was required in order to properly align the coupling.

The couplings on the remaining two component cooling water pumps have been nondestructively tested. Both couplings were determined to be free from cracks. One coupling was found to have greater than normal wear. A new coupling is being procured and will be installed and aligned as soon as it is received.

Diesel Generator Low Frequency Operation

The 1-2 diesel generator was test started for routine monthly testing on July 27. The unit started properly. However, the speed stabilized at 57 hertz. The unit was then shifted to the "parallel"

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*Accident 50-255*  
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Mr. John F. O'Leary, Director  
Docket 50-255  
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mode of operation and the speed was increased to 60 hertz. The unit was then shift back to "unit" mode of operation and the speed dropped to 57 hertz. The 1-1 diesel generator was started and verified to be operable.

Investigation revealed that a cam was loose in the electric governor. The cam was tightened and the monthly test run of the 1-2 diesel generator was successfully completed.

Since this incident, the electric governor cam on the 1-1 diesel generator has been inspected and found to be secure.

Although the loose cam would have precluded automatic operation of the 1-2 diesel generator as described in the FSAR, the Plant Review Committee concluded that it might be feasible to utilize the diesel generator under similar circumstances by using the manual hand-wheel with the electric governor bypassed. This course of action will be further investigated and, if feasible, procedures will be developed to provide operator guidance.

#### Thermal Margin/Low-Pressure Trip Set Point Variation

On August 3 during a monthly testing, the reactor protective system Channel B thermal margin/low-pressure trip set point was found to be lower than that required by plant operations. Further investigation revealed a defective set point potentiometer. This potentiometer was replaced and Channel B thermal margin/low-pressure trip returned to service.

This failure of Channel B thermal margin/low-pressure trip did not result in a loss of a reactor protection function. Three additional channels of thermal margin/low-pressure trip protection were provided by plant design. These three channels were verified to be functioning properly.

Yours very truly,

Ralph B. Sewell (Signed)

RBS/ce

Ralph B. Sewell  
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

CC: BHGrier, USAEC