

Commonwealth Edison Company

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Dresden Nuclear Power Station

P. R. #1

Morris, Illinois 60450

November 15, 1972

30-249

Mr. A. Giambusso
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing
Washington, D.C. 20545

Subject: License DPR-25, Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit #3,
Section 6.6.C.1 of the Technical Specifications

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

This is to report a condition relating to the operation of the station, when, during local leak rate testing of primary containment rubber seated ventilation valves, the valves associated with primary containment system penetration X-126, had a leakage rate greater than that specified for a single penetration.

PROBLEM AND INVESTIGATION

At 1100, October 25, 1972, with the reactor at a power level of 805 MWe, local leak rate tests were being conducted on the primary containment rubber seated ventilation valves. These tests are required each refueling outage, but presently are conducted on a three month frequency due to previously experienced problems with deterioration of the valves' rubber seats. On the first test of the valves associated with penetration X-126, the leakage was 129.9 scf/hr, which exceeds the leak rate specified for a single penetration (29.34 scf/hr). These valves were last tested on July 19, 1972 and had a leakage of 14.7 scf/hr.

Upon visual inspection of valve 3-1601-22, cracks in the rubber seat were observed. A blind flange was placed over the penetration to insure adequacy of primary containment. At 1400 hours another test was run and the leakage was 40.75 scf/hr. Minor leakage was noted around the blind flange. This flange was tightened and the leakage was reduced to 32.28 scf/hr with no leakage around the blind flange. The other rubber seated valves on Units 2 and 3 were all tested with satisfactory results.

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In the initial integrated leak rate test of the Dresden Unit #3 primary containment, which was conducted from August 22, 1970, through August 26, 1970, the total leakage $L_m(48)$ out of the primary containment was calculated to be 0.232 weight percent of the contained air. Using the latest available leak rates, including the 32.28 scf/hr for penetration X-126, the total leakage $L_m(48)$ from the primary containment is now 0.362 weight percent, which is well within the Technical Specification limit of 1.6 weight percent of the contained air per 24 hours.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

As soon as practical, all primary containment rubber seated valves similar to and including the subject valve, will be removed and sent to the manufacturer to be reseated with an improved seat material. These valves will continue to be checked on a three month basis in the interim.

Sincerely,


W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:sdb