

COPY



Consumers
Power
Company

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

August 2, 1973



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

Re: Docket 50-255
AO-4-73

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

The following describes Palisades Abnormal Occurrence 4-73 which consisted of one control rod being inserted slightly beyond the power dependent insertion limit (PDIL) as defined in the Technical Specifications.

The incident occurred at 0619 on July 23 with the plant at about 80% power after a one-day outage. At that time, a power escalation of 10% per hour was in progress and core xenon was burning out rapidly.

While the control rods were being withdrawn during power escalation, a prepower dependent insertion alarm (PPDIL) came in. This alarm is fixed 10 inches above the final PDIL limit. The operator immediately started borating in small batches (35, 25, 20 gallons) to bring the control rods back out. However, with xenon burning out rapidly, the boration was apparently too slow and the alarm point was increasing at the same time because of the power increase. Control rod No 38, which was slightly behind the rest of the controlling group, ended up 0.1 inch below the alarm limit for that power (78.3 inches).

Additional boron was immediately added and the alarm was cleared after six minutes. Boration was continued until the PPDIL also cleared, and the power increase was resumed.

The circumstances at the time of the incident were somewhat unusual in that the operator was faced with control rod insertions to offset an xenon decrease and the PDIL alarm point was increasing with

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rising power. In this instance, the boration was not done in sufficient quantities to overcome the two effects. The limit was exceeded by only 0.1 inch which caused no excessive core power peaking.

Yours very truly,

Ralph B. Sewell (Signed)

RBS/mel

Ralph B. Sewell
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

CC: BHGrier, USAEC

TO: B. H. Grier

RB Files
FS&EB ACTION CONTROL FORM

A. Action Code FO#191

Name of Licensee and Facility Palisades

Docket No. or License No. 50-255

Title Palisades Abnormal Occurrence - Control Rods Inserted Beyond Limit

Origin FS&EB Date Rec'd 10/4/73

B. FS&EB Branch Coordinator:

Bryan _____, Dreher _____ H. D. Thornburg X

Ellis _____ Paulus _____

C. Action Requested of:

ADREMP _____ M&PPOB _____ EPB _____ RPB _____ ADCO X

OB _____ CB _____ TAB _____ OOE _____ REGION _____

Date Requested 10/4/73 Completion Requested by 10/19/73

Reference Letter to J. G. Davis From S. E. Bryan dated October 4, 1973

D. Action Requested: Please take this matter up with Licensing (TR).

E. Date Action Completed _____

Close-out (Date & Method) _____

Comments: If completion date is not consistent with your work
schedule, please let us know.

50-255 inquiry
Harold D. Thornburg
Harold D. Thornburg, Chief
Field Support & Enforcement Branch
Directorate of Regulatory Operations

cc: J. G. Davis
S. E. Bryan