



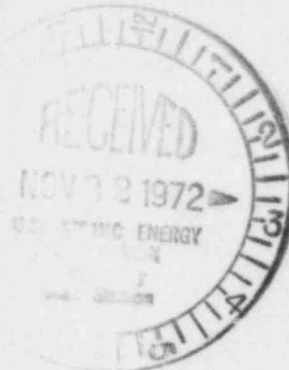
**Consumers
Power
Company**

COPY

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

November 20, 1972

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



Re: Docket No 50-255
License No DPR-20

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

Our letter of September 8, 1972 informed you of difficulties encountered with four control rod drive mechanisms (CRDM) during trip testing at the Palisades Plant, corrective action taken and additional testing programs implemented to verify clutch operability. During each of two recent outages, all CRDM clutch splines were relubricated. These relubrications were described in our September 26, 1972 and November 2, 1972 letters. This letter is written to describe our present CRDM testing program.

Our September 26 letter described the testing program as follows:

1. Trip test one peripheral CRDM on an alternating basis per day during plant operation.
2. Trip test all CRDMs prior to returning the plant to service following a cold shutdown.

At a recent Safety Audit and Review Board (SARB) Meeting, CRDM testing was reviewed. SARB modified the testing program slightly as follows:

1. Trip test at least 14 peripheral CRDMs at intervals of not greater than once every two weeks during plant operation.
2. Trip test all CRDMs prior to returning the plant to service following a cold shutdown.

The new testing program provides for the same statistical sampling as the previous program. There was an unquantifiable feeling that long-term fuel performance might be enhanced by performing testing essentially at one time. As of this writing, the new testing program is being implemented at the Palisades Plant.

8307080065 721120
PDR ADOCK 05000255
S PDR

COPY SENT REGION

6424

Mr. John F. O'Leary
November 20, 1972

2

Again, the relubrication of the clutch splines and the testing program are considered temporary corrective action. They will remain in effect until a testing program on proposed modifications can be completed, the results evaluated, and a permanent modification installed. As in the past, we will keep both Directorate of Licensing and Directorate of Regulatory Operations representatives informed as to the progress toward a permanent solution.

Yours very truly,

Ralph B. Sewell (Signed)

RBS/map

Ralph B. Sewell
Nuclear Licensing Administrator