

Harry R. Wall  
~~TELEPHONE RECORD~~

Vice Chairman of the Board



Consumers  
 Power  
 Company

General Offices: 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201 • Area Code 517 788-6620

June 15, 1972

Mr. L. Manning Muntzing  
 Director of Regulation  
 U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
 Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Muntzing:

On May 15 and 16, 1972, Consumers Power Company reported the discovery of a portion of a 5/8" shoulder bolt in the plenum of the No. 2 steam generator at the Palisades Plant. A meeting was held with some of your representatives on May 17. In these reports and this meeting, we concluded that the bolt was one of the upper guide structure ring shim bolts, that these bolts perform no function during reactor operation, and that there were no significant adverse safety implications involved in the bolt severance.

On May 19, 1972, your Mr. Case sent us a letter stating:

"The location and cause of the recent bolt failure hypothesized in your referenced letter appears to be consistent with the known facts. The evidence, however, does not definitely support the conclusion that this is, in fact, an accurate identification of the source of the bolt and of its failure mode. In view of this, the AEC Regulatory Staff believes that prior to resuming reactor operation, it would be prudent to inspect the upper guide structure and, if necessary, other pressure vessel components to obtain greater assurance that the bolt failure is not symptomatic of some problem, not presently recognized, that might have greater safety significance than the cause of the failure which you have postulated.' In view of this we request that, prior to resuming reactor operation, the pressure vessel head be removed and the upper guide structure and the compensating shim ring be inspected. The result of this inspection should be reported to the Directorate of Operations of the AEC, along with your analysis of the suitability of the reactor for future operation."

The reactor head was removed and the requested inspection was made. It confirmed the conclusions stated in our May 15 and 16 reports. We so reported to your organization by teletype. A further telephone call to Washington was required to obtain clearance for returning the reactor to operation. The plant was out of service for 17 days to perform these actions.

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No. VER

50-255 Incident

Mr. L. Manning Muntzing  
June 15, 1972

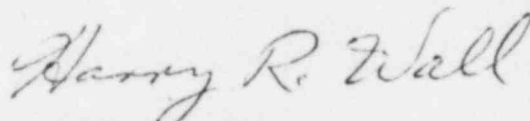
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We have three principal concerns as a result of this incident.

1. The extra outage to inspect the upper guide structure cost Consumers Power Company about \$1,500,000 for replacement power. We question the justification for requesting removal of the reactor head, in the light of the convincing analysis as to the source of the broken bolt, as well as the absence of safety implications associated with such a failure.
2. Personnel were exposed to additional radioactivity due to removal of the head.
3. We believe the record in cases such as this should be made complete by having a "release" in writing as well as the "hold" which stops operation initially.

We would be interested in any comments you may have.

Yours very truly,



Harry R. Wall  
Vice Chairman

HRW/ew