



Commonwealth Edison
One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois
Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

BBS Ltr.#441-74

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
June 19, 1974

Mr. J. F. O'Leary, Director
Directorate of Licensing
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

50-249



SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR-25, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT #3, REPORT
OF ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE PER SECTION 6.6.B.1.a OF THE TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATIONS.
REACTOR HIGH PRESSURE.

References: 1) Notification of Region III of AEC Regulatory Operations
Telephone: Mr. F. Maura, 1300 hours on 6/12/74
Telegram: Mr. J. Keppler, 1358 hours on 6/12/74

2) Dwgs: P & ID M-26
S & L 12E2464

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This letter is to report a condition relating to the operation of the unit at about 1000 hours on June 11, 1974. At this time, two of the reactor high pressure scram switches were found with setpoints of 1064 psi and 1066 psi. This malfunction is contrary to Table 3.1.1 which requires a setpoint of \leq 1060 psig.

PROBLEM

At the time of the occurrence, Unit 3 was operating at a steady load of 460 MWe. During routine monthly surveillance of reactor high pressure switches PS3-263-55 A,B,C and D, switches A and C were found with setpoints of 1064 psi \uparrow and 1066 psi \uparrow respectively. These setpoints are above the Technical Specification limit \leq 1060 psi. The switches were immediately reset to 1048 psi and 1044 psi. The normal function of these switches is to provide a reactor scram if pressure reaches a value of 1060 psi.

INVESTIGATION

This violation of setpoint limit is attributed to instrument drift. The switches are Melatron Model 372 pressure sensors with bourdon tube operators. The switches are very similar to the Barksdale Model 132T-A1SS which has an inherent drift tendency. The vendor recommended

8310190114 740619
PDR ADOCK 05000249
S PDR

COPY SENT REGION *III*

50-249-785

June 19, 1974

fix for the Barksdale switch is to return it to the factory for pre-cycling. All manufacturing and service for Meletron switches is now performed by the Barksdale Company. Therefore, the Meletron switches will be sent to Barksdale, Inc. for pre-conditioning.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

A program is presently in progress to pre-condition all Barksdale and Meletron bourdon tube type switches. The reactor high pressure switches will be pre-conditioned as soon as practicable. At this time, Unit 2 has 8 pre-cycled switches installed and Unit 3 has 4 pre-cycled switches installed. Eight more switches are now at the factory for pre-cycling.

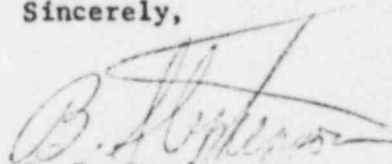
EVALUATION

The switches in question are two of four which are connected in a "one out of two twice" logic configuration. This would have provided a scram at 1064 psi, which is only slightly above the 1060 psi Technical Specification value. It is therefore concluded that the safety of the plant personnel or the general public was not jeopardized as a result of this occurrence.

The cumulative experience with these switches does not indicate that more frequent calibration of them would be of any help.

The cumulative experience of pressure switch drift is inconclusive at this time because of lack of history, however, the vendor indicates that lack of pre-cycling is the cause of the persistent drift problem at Dresden Station.

Sincerely,



B. B. Stephenson
Superintendent

BBS:WEH:do