



Commonwealth Edison

One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois
Address Mailing to: Post Office Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

50-249

BBS Ltr.#250-74

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
April 4, 1974



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

SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR-25, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT #3, REPORT
OF ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE PER SECTION 6.6.B OF THE TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATION,
3B CONTROL ROD DRIVE WATER FILTER DRAIN LINE.

References: 1) Notification of Region III of AEC Regulatory Operations
Telephone: Mr. F. Maura, 1040 hours on April 2, 1974
Telegram: Mr. J. Keppler, 1100 hours on April 2, 1974

2) Dwgs: P&ID M-365

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This letter is to report a condition relating to the operation of the unit at about 1000 hours on April 2, 1974. At this time, station personnel noted a crack in the 3B Control Rod Drive Water Filter drain line. The drain line is 3/4" diameter and is designated as line 3-4802E. The leakage associated with the failure was minor and resulted in no significant contamination.

This malfunction is contrary to section 1.A.5 of the Technical Specifications, which defines an abnormal occurrence as an abnormal degradation of one of the several boundaries which are designed to contain the radioactive materials resulting from the fission process.

PROBLEM

The problem was discovered during normal plant inspection when it was noted that there was a minor leak in the Unit 3 Control Rod Drive Water Filter 3B-302-4 drain line (3-4802B-3/4"L). The plant was shutdown for refueling and the CRD system was in service at the time of the occurrence.

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April 4, 1974

The leak was between the B filter and the drain valve (3-0301-12B) at the weld joining the valve to the filter drain pipe.

The "B" filter was immediately valved out of service upon placing the parallel "A" filter in service. The isolated filter was drained and the release of condensate was stopped. The filter was out of service and drained at 1040 hours on April 2, 1974.

The 3B CRD Water Filter drain line is used to drain the filter for cleaning or maintenance.

INVESTIGATION

The cracked weld was examined by Commonwealth Edison's Operational Analysis Department and determined to be caused by fatigue failure. Frequent operation of the drain valve and repeated backwashing and changing of the filters are believed to be the causes of the failure.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

As indicated previously, the filter was removed from service and drained immediately. The crack was ground out and the weld was pad welded. Following completion of the repair, a dye penetrant test was successfully performed. The filter was available for service at 0800 hours on April 3, 1974.

EVALUATIONS

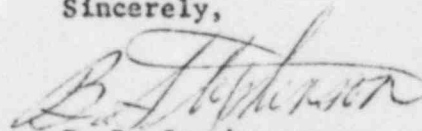
This occurrence did not jeopardize the safety of the plant or the public and resulted in no significant contamination problem. Precautions normally in effect for the area were sufficient.

The immediate action instituted was satisfactory and effective.

The leak was minor, to the extent that it was leaking less than a bad valve packing. The fact that it was due to a cracked weld rather than a packing resulted in its classification as an "abnormal degradation." However, the safety implication was identical to a "normal" degradation which is not considered to have serious safety implications.

The nature of the failure is such that normal maintenance inspections and system operational tests are adequate to prevent or minimize failures of this type on similar equipment. This occurrence poses no reasons for limiting future operation of Dresden Unit 3.

Sincerely,



B. B. Stephenson
Superintendent

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