



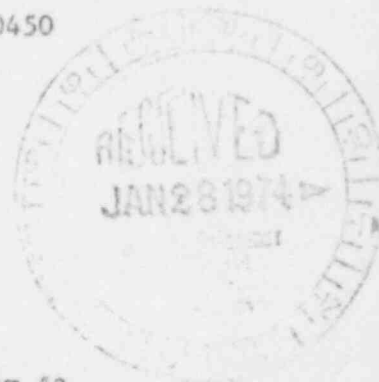
Commonwealth Edison
One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois
Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

WPW Ltr. #51-74

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
January 22, 1974

50-249

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.1.A OF THE
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.
CONDENSER LOW VACUUM SCRAM SWITCH DRIFT.

References: 1) Notification of Region III of AEC Regulatory Operations
Telephone: Mr. Maura at 1400 hours on 1/15/74.
Telegram: Mr. Keppler at 1530 hours on 1/15/74.
2) Dwgs: P & ID M-346

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This letter is to report a condition relating to the operation of the unit at about 1800 hours on January 14, 1974. At this time condenser low vacuum scram switch PSL 3-503C was found to operate at 22.35 inches of Hg.

This malfunction is contrary to Table 3.1.1 of the Technical Specifications which requires the condenser vacuum switches to be set at greater or equal to 23 inches Hg vacuum.

PROBLEM

At the time of the occurrence, Unit #3 was operating at a steady load of 620 MWe. The Instrument Department was conducting routine monthly surveillance testing on condenser low vacuum scram switches PSL3-503A, B, C and D. At this time, PSL3-503C was found to actuate at 22.35 inches Hg vacuum, which is 0.65 inch Hg vacuum below the required setpoint. The switch was immediately reset to 23.75 inch Hg vacuum.

The function of PSL3-503C is to scram the unit in the event condenser vacuum falls below 23 inch Hg. This vacuum level is necessary to assure adequate heat sink capability of the condenser.

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January 22, 1974

INVESTIGATION

PSL3-503C is a Barksdale Model D1T-W18SS diaphragm pressure switch with a 0.4 to 18 psi range. The switch was found below the Technical Specification limit once in 1973 and in October of 1973 the switch was found set at 25.5 inch Hg which was above the Dresden target band of 23.7 ± 0.2 inches Hg. No violations occurred in 1972.

The performance of the four switches as a group is somewhat unreliable. They seem to be susceptible to periodic changes in setpoint after periods of stable repeatability.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

At this time, PSL3-503A,B,C and D do not appear to have the repeatability necessary to consistently comply with the Technical Specifications. To correct the problem, a different type of switch will be installed on Unit 3 for evaluation. Vacuum switches manufactured by the Static-O-Ring Corporation have exhibited very good reliability on similar applications. The new switches will be installed as soon as Quality Assurance procedures and approvals can be completed, and the new switches received from the vendor.

EVALUATION

PSL3-503C and A both provide scram signals to scram channel "A". Switch "A" was found to comply with the Technical Specification requirement and functioned properly when tested. It is therefore concluded that the redundant circuit system functioned as designed and therefore the safety of the plant personnel or the general public was in no way jeopardized as a result of this occurrence.

Sincerely,

W.P. Worden AR

W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:do