

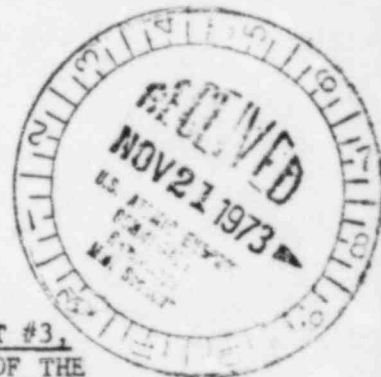


Commonwealth Edison
One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois
Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

WPW Ltr.#862-73

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
November 19, 1973

Mr. J. P. 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 OF THE
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.
2/3 CORE HEIGHT LEVEL SENSORS OUT OF CALIBRATION.

- References: 1) Letter from W. P. Worden to A. Giambusso dated January 19, 1973 concerning same subject.
- 2) Notification of Region III of AEC Regulatory Operations
Telephone: H. Dance 1550 hours on November 9, 1973
Telegram: J. Keppler 1600 hours on November 9, 1973
- 3) Dwgs: P & ID M-26(SF)

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This letter is to report a condition relating to the operation of the unit at about 1600 hours on November 9, 1973. At this time, the 2/3 core height water level sensors LITS-263-73A and B were found to have setpoints above the Technical Specification of ≤ 257 " decreasing.

This malfunction is contrary to Table 3.2.2 of the Technical Specifications which requires that the containment spray system be interlocked to prevent operation if reactor level is at or below 2/3 of the core height.

PROBLEM

During routine monthly surveillance of the 2/3 core height containment spray interlock level switches, LITS-263-73A and B, the setpoints were found to be 261" H₂O dP and 262" H₂O dP respectively. The Technical Specifications require that these switches operate at ≤ 257 " H₂O dP. The switches were immediately set to 254.5" H₂O dP and 255.0" H₂O dP.

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INVESTIGATION

The switches in question are Yarway number 4418EC devices. Past surveillance history indicates that they are normally very reliable devices which seldom drift. Switch LITS-263-73B was last calibrated on October 28, 1973 as a post maintenance check after a valve manifold was replaced. The switch setpoint was found to have drifted 9" after only 12 days. Therefore, it is concluded that an increased surveillance schedule will not guarantee consistent compliance with the Technical Specification setpoint.

Previous to this Technical Specification violation, LITS 3-263-73A has failed four times since September, 1971 with the last failure occurring in January, 1973. Each month since January, the switch was found to be within Technical Specification limits. Switch LITS-3-263-73B has failed three times since September, 1971 with the last failure occurring on August 3, 1972 when both switch A and B failed.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The switches were immediately reset to comply with Technical Specification requirements. The problem now will be to determine the cause of this sporadic change in setpoint. The following steps will be taken to resolve the problem.

1. Consult the manufacturer for assistance in solving the problem.
2. Analyze the procedure used by the Instrument Mechanics who set the switches to determine if errors in technique are causing the problem.

EVALUATION

Normal setpoint of these switches is 96/144ths core height. The out of specification trip points would have been 91/144ths and 92/144ths. For all practical purposes this is still 2/3 core height and therefore it is concluded that the safety of the plant personnel or the general public was not jeopardized as a result of this setpoint drift.

Sincerely,

W. P. Worden

W. P. Worden
Superintendent

WPW:do



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September 8, 1975



Mr. Dennis L. Ziemann, Chief
Operating Reactors - Branch 2
Division of Reactor Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Dresden Station Units 1, 2, and 3
Hydraulic Snubber -
Technical Specifications
NRC Dkts. 50-10, 50-237, and 50-249

Dear Mr. Ziemann:

In response to your letter dated July 9, 1975 concerning this subject, we are preparing Technical Specifications for Dresden Units 1, 2, and 3. These specifications are currently undergoing review and we expect submittal by September 19, 1975.

If further delays occur, you will be notified promptly.

Very truly yours,

G. A. Abrell
Nuclear Licensing Administrator
Boiling Water Reactors

Dupe

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