

Commonwealth Edison Company

ONE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA * CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Address Reply to:

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Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R. R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
August 12, 1971

Dr. Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545



SUBJECT: LICENSE DPR-25, DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT #3,
SECTION 6.6.B.2 OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Dear Dr. Morris:

This is to report a condition relating to the operation of the Station when, following a high temperature isolation signal in the off gas system, it was observed that valve AO-5402-A (mechanical vacuum pump automatic isolation valve) was not fully closed. Failure of this valve to fully close rendered the mechanical vacuum pump incapable of being isolated on a signal of high radioactivity as required by Section 3.8.B.1 of the DPR-25 Technical Specifications.

Problem - Investigation

At 0815 hours on August 3, 1971, the unit was at 550 psig and heating. Main condenser vacuum was being established. A high temperature signal in the off gas system initiated an automatic closure of the mechanical vacuum pump suction valves. Following the isolation signal, it was observed that mechanical vacuum pump suction valve AO-5402-A started but did not complete closure.

The valve was then closed manually. The main steam isolation valves (MSIV's) were then closed and the 5402-A valve was inspected. Investigation revealed that there was binding within the valve in the last two inches of the opening stroke. Apparently, the binding was sufficient to prevent closure of the valve using the air operator. Operation of the valve over the remainder of its stroke was normal.

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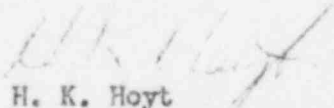
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As a temporary measure, a mechanical stop was installed in the valve operator to prevent the valve from opening the last two inches and consequently binding. Operability was then demonstrated by repeated valve operation.

Corrective Action

The operability of the valve, following the temporary installation of the mechanical stop, was demonstrated as mentioned above. The valve was then declared operable and plant heatup was resumed at 1:45 a.m. on August 4, 1971. At the first opportunity the valve will be disassembled and inspected to determine the cause of the binding.

Sincerely,


H. K. Hoyt
Superintendent

HKH:LDB:ls