

# DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

La Crosse, Wisconsin

54601

December 26, 1979

In reply, please  
refer to LAC-6711

DOCKET NO. 50-409

Mr. James G. Keppler  
Regional Director  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations  
Region III  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

SUBJECT: DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE  
LA CROSSE BOILING WATER REACTOR (LACBWR)  
PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-45  
REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE NO. 79-19

References: (1) LACBWR Technical Specifications,  
Section 3.2.9.a.3  
(2) LACBWR Technical Specifications,  
Section 5.2.1.2.b

Dear Mr. Keppler:

In accordance with Reference 1, this is to inform you of abnormal degradation discovered in the primary reactor containment during periodic Type B surveillance leakage rate testing.

A Type B penetration leakage rate test to determine the leakage rate of the Containment Building emergency airlock was performed on December 23, 1979. The results of the test did not meet the acceptance criteria as specified in Reference 2. The test leakage rate was determined to be 1.0372 SCFH and the acceptance criteria is 0.749 SCFH.\*

\* Shall not exceed 2% of leakage rate  $L_{po}$ ,  
where  $L_{po}$  is 37.46 SCFH.

Since the inner door of the emergency airlock provided a leak-tight closure, containment integrity was not jeopardized by the observed deficiency. The reactor was in Operating Condition No. 1 - Power Operation - at the time of the test.

An investigation was conducted promptly to determine the source of leakage. The problem was traced to a leak in the mechanical seal of the interior door operating shaft which extends through the airlock shell to the outside (See Figure 1). Two O-rings and the

POOR ORIGINAL

- 1 -

90000009

7912310

497

Mr. James G. Keppler, Reg. Dir.  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

LAC-6711  
December 26, 1979

shaft packing were found to be flat (See Figure 2). A new seal was installed and the Type B leak rate test was reperformed with zero leakage observed.

At the present time, the shaft seals are not replaced on a scheduled basis. Replacement of the shaft seals will be added to the scheduled preventive maintenance on the emergency airlock to prevent future occurrences of this type.\*

Prompt notification of this event was made to Region III, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, at 0650 on December 23, 1979. The event was also discussed with Mr. Ridgway at 0800 on December 23, 1979.

A Licensee Event Report (Reference: Appendix A, Regulatory Guide 1.16, Revision 4) is enclosed.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

Frank Linder, General Manager

FL:LG:af  
Enclosures

cc: Director, Office of Inspection and (30)  
Enforcement  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Director, Office of Management Information (3)  
and Program Control  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

\* No prior incidents related to degradation of the emergency airlock shaft seals have been recorded.

90000010

POOR ORIGINAL