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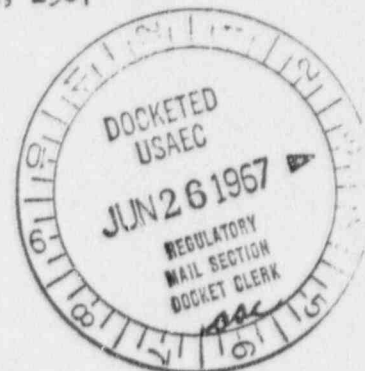
Consumers
Power
Company

General Offices: 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201 • Area Code 517 788-0550

Re: Docket 50-155

June 23, 1967

Regulatory Suppl File Cy.



Dr. P. A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Morris:

Attention: Mr. D. J. Skovholt

Recent discussions with our AEC-Compliance inspector and your staff indicate that there is some confusion about our current operating practices relating to the Big Rock Point main steam bypass valve. During part of our last power run (November, 1966 through May, 1967), the automatic operation of the main steam bypass valve was limited to 50 MWe load. The valve control was placed in the manual position whenever the plant was operating at 50 MWe or greater. It was intended that this change in operating procedure be noted in our last semiannual report to the AEC. It was not reported because of an inadvertent editorial omission. This letter is intended to report the change in operating procedure which shall also be in effect for the current power run and also to detail the reasons for making the change.

Since the complete replacement of the electronic controls in 1965, the bypass valve has performed quite adequately with the exception of the incident of August 8, 1966, and this problem was immediately detected and corrected. It is apparent however, that some incidence of failure will always be present in the system, and Consumers Power Company has decided to install a d-c motor operated isolation valve immediately ahead of the bypass valve as a backup valve. Also, since there is only the one transmission line into the plant, and tripping of the line results in a loss of normal station power, it has been decided to provide a second source of station power by bringing a 46 Kv transmission line into the plant substation. An automatic throwover to the auxiliary supply will occur in the event of loss of normal station power. Material for both of these modifications is on

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Dr. P. A. Morris
June 23, 1967

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order and it will be installed during the next refueling outage in early 1968, barring unexpected delays.

Testing of the bypass valve with the new electronic controls up to the maximum trip levels that the system can accommodate still remains to be done. We have not felt that the number of thermal transients to the fuel necessary for a thorough test program was desirable because of the fuel failures that have been experienced in the stainless steel and R & D fuels. Also, since we are now planning to install the isolation valve and backup station power supply, we feel that it is prudent to delay further testing until this equipment is installed. It is for the above two reasons that the 30 MW trip test originally planned for the recently completed refueling was deferred.

Experience to date indicates that the bypass valve will probably not prevent a reactor scram at load rejections above 50 MW until further testing and adjustments are made. Therefore, during the next run the bypass valve will be operated on manual at loads above 50 MWe since this type of operation will virtually eliminate any possible spurious valve opening that might otherwise occur. A reactor scram will be accepted in the event of a line trip at above 50 MWe. The incidence of line trips from lightning is quite low, with one lightning trip during the past five years.

In our judgement, the above change in operating procedures does not involve a change in the technical specifications incorporated in our license or an unreviewed safety problem. Our review of the FISR shows that neither the probability of the occurrence nor the consequences of the accidents are increased by this change nor is there a possible occurrence of any significant new accident.

We trust that the above discussion will clarify our projected plans regarding the Big Rock Point bypass valve.

Yours very truly,

R. L. Haucter

RLH/imp

R. L. Haucter
Assistant Electric Production
Superintendent - Nuclear

CC: JGKeppeler

FROM:

**Consumers Power Co.
Jackson, Michigan
(R. L. Hamster)**

DATE OF DOCUMENT:

6-23-67

DATE RECEIVED:

6-26-67

NO.:

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LTR.

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MEMO:

REPORT:

OTHER:

TO:

Dr. Morris

ORIG.:

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OTHER:

ACTION NECESSARY ☐NO ACTION NECESSARY ☐CONCURRENCE ☐COMMENT ☐

DATE ANSWERED:

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DOCKET: 30-155

DESCRIPTION: (Must Be Unclassified)

**Ltr. advising us in regard to their
current operating practices relating
to the Big Rock Point Main steam
bypass valve.....**

ENCLOSURES:

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Floury: 6-27**w/6 extras -- FOR ACTION****Info Copies to:****Dr. Morris****Boyd****E. Price & Staff****Levine****Shovholt****Mandler**

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