

La Salle 1 3Q/2012 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

Significance: G Sep 21, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Perform a Written Safety Evaluation for TRM Changes Section

The inspectors identified a Severity Level IV Non-Cited Violation and an associated finding of very low safety significance (Green) of 10 CFR 50.59, "Changes, Tests, and Experiments," Section (d)1 for the licensee's failure to perform a written safety evaluation to demonstrate that the deletion of the Technical Requirements Manual (TRM), Section 3.4.a did not require a license amendment. The licensee entered this issue into their Corrective Action Program and initiated a Standing Order reinstating the TRM in Section 3.4.a.

The inspectors determined that the violation was more than minor because the finding, if left uncorrected would become a more significant safety concern. In addition, the inspector could not reasonably determine that the changes would not have ultimately required NRC prior approval. The inspectors determined that the finding was of very low safety significance (Green) based on a review of the licensee's operability determination and corrective actions for non-conformance to the ASME code requirements issues identified since the deletion of the TRM section. The inspectors determined that the licensee's actions in the four instances did not have any technical safety concerns. This finding had a cross-cutting aspect in the area of Human Performance within the Decision Making component because the licensee did not use conservative assumptions to ensure the proposed activity was safe. Specifically, the licensee made an inadequate assumption when they determined that the removal of TRM, Section 3.4.a did not have an adverse effect.

Inspection Report# : [2012007](#) (*pdf*)

Significance: G Sep 21, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: FIN Finding

Failure to Perform a Written Safety Evaluation for TRM Changes

The inspectors identified a Severity Level IV Non-Cited Violation and an associated finding of very low safety significance (Green) of 10 CFR 50.59, "Changes, Tests, and Experiments," Section (d)1 for the licensee's failure to perform a written safety evaluation to demonstrate that the deletion of the Technical Requirements Manual (TRM), Section 3.4.a did not require a license amendment. The licensee entered this issue into their Corrective Action Program and initiated a Standing Order reinstating the TRM Section 3.4.a.

The inspectors determined that the violation was more than minor because the finding, if left uncorrected would become a more significant safety concern. In addition, the inspector could not reasonably determine that the changes would not have ultimately required NRC prior approval. The inspectors determined that the finding was of very low safety significance (Green) based on a review of the licensee's operability determination and corrective actions for non-conformance to the ASME code requirements issues identified since the deletion of the TRM section. The inspectors determined that the licensee's actions in the four instances did not have any technical safety concerns. This finding had a cross-cutting aspect in the area of Human Performance within the Decision Making component because

the licensee did not use conservative assumptions to ensure the proposed activity was safe. Specifically, the licensee made an inadequate assumption when they determined that the removal of TRM, Section 3.4.a did not have an adverse effect.

Inspection Report# : [2012007](#) (*pdf*)

Mitigating Systems

Significance:  Sep 30, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Lack of Adequate Design Review of Effects of Fish Kills on Systems Needed During an Ultimate Heat Sink Design Basis Accident

The inspectors identified a finding of very low safety significance and associated NCV of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control," for the failure to adequately verify the adequacy of the design of systems needed during a design basis accident. Specifically, the inspectors identified the licensee failed to evaluate the effects of fish mortality resulting from the elevated ultimate heat sink (UHS) temperatures predicted to occur during design basis accidents. The licensee entered the issue into their corrective action program (CAP) and based on engineering judgment, concluded the fish mortality or fish kills would not prevent systems from performing their safety functions during a design basis accident.

The performance deficiency was determined to be more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of Design Control and the objective of ensuring the capability of the system to respond to an initiating event to prevent undesirable consequences. Specifically, based on previous operating experience, there was reasonable doubt equipment would remain operable due to the anticipated fish kill from elevated lake temperatures if a design basis accident had occurred. The finding was screened as very low safety significance (Green) because the design deficiency did not result in a loss of operability or functionality. The inspectors determined the finding had a cross cutting aspect in the area of problem identification and resolution because the licensee did not adequately analyze the potential adverse effects of fish kills on systems needed during design basis accidents when evaluating the adverse affects of the high UHS temperatures during the August 13, 2010, event (P.1. (c)).

Inspection Report# : [2012004](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Sep 30, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Follow Plant Barrier Control Process for High Energy Line Break Protection Doors

A finding of very low safety significance and associated NCV of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion V, "Instructions, Procedures, and Drawings," was identified by the inspectors for the licensee's failure to follow procedure CC AA 201, Revision 9, "Plant Barrier Control Program." Specifically, the licensee propped open two doors that were required to remain shut at all times as high energy line break (HELB) barriers. Upon identification, the licensee immediately closed the doors and promptly entered the issue into the CAP for evaluation.

The finding was determined to be more than minor because if left uncorrected, the failure to follow the requirements of the plant barrier control program would lead to a more significant safety issue and was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone. The inspectors determined the finding could be evaluated using the SDP in accordance with IMC 0609 Appendix A, "The Significance Determination Process for At Power Findings" to evaluate

the finding for Unit 2 and IMC 0609 Appendix G “Shutdown Operations Significance Determination Process” for Unit 1. Since the finding did not cause the affected ventilation systems to be inoperable, the systems could still perform their safety function with the HELB door blocked open, so the finding did not meet the criteria for performing a detailed risk assessment. For the shutdown SDP, checklist 6 was reviewed. All safety function checklist items were met, and none of the criteria for performing a phase 2 or 3 evaluation were met. As a result, the finding screened as very low safety significance (Green) for both units. This finding had a cross cutting aspect in the area of human performance, work practices, for failing to effectively define and communicate expectations regarding procedural compliance, and personnel following procedures (H.4(b)).

Inspection Report# : [2012004](#) (pdf)

Significance: G Sep 30, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Maintain an Adequate Testing Program for Safety-Related Watertight Doors

A finding of very low safety significance and associated NCV of 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion XI, “Test Control,” was identified by the inspectors for the licensee’s failure to maintain an adequate testing program for the station’s safety related watertight doors. Specifically, the licensee’s watertight door inspection procedure failed to satisfy the testing standard, set forth in regulations, that all testing required to demonstrate that safety related structures, systems, and components (SSCs) will perform satisfactorily in service, be identified and performed in accordance with written test procedures which incorporate the requirements and acceptance limits contained in applicable design documents. Upon notification by the inspectors, the licensee entered the issue into the CAP and concluded that a revision to the watertight door inspection procedure was warranted.

The finding was determined to be more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of procedure quality and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the availability, reliability, and capability of systems that respond to initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences (i.e., core damage). The inspectors determined the finding could be evaluated using the SDP in accordance with IMC 0609, Appendix A, “The Significance Determination Process for Findings At Power,” Exhibit 2, dated June 19, 2012. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because all questions were answered “No.” This finding did not have a cross cutting aspect because the deficient inspection procedure was created more than three years ago and was not considered indicative of current performance.

Inspection Report# : [2012004](#) (pdf)

Significance: G Sep 30, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Operability of Low Pressure Core Injection and Containment Cooling In Mode 3 Not Maintained

The inspectors identified a finding of very low safety significance and associated NCV of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, “Corrective Action,” for the failure to ensure low pressure coolant injection (LPCI) and containment cooling (CC) operability in Mode 3. Specifically, the licensee did not correct two conditions adverse to quality that adversely impacted the operability of these modes of operation of the RHR system while realigned for shutdown cooling mode of operation. This finding was entered into the licensee’s CAP to reconcile the licensing requirements and design of the RHR system.

The performance deficiency was determined to be more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating System Cornerstone attribute of equipment performance and adversely affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the availability, reliability, and capability of systems that respond to initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences. In addition, the finding was associated with the Containment Barrier Cornerstone attribute of structures, systems, components and barrier performance and affected the cornerstone objective of providing reasonable assurance that physical design barriers protect the public from radionuclide releases caused by accidents or

events. The finding screened as of very low safety significance (Green) using a Phase II evaluation. Specifically, all the core damage sequences affected were calculated to have a frequency of 1×10^{-8} per year or less. The inspectors determined the cause of this finding did not represent current licensee performance and, thus, no cross cutting aspect was assigned.

Inspection Report# : [2012004](#) (pdf)

Significance:  Sep 30, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Inadequate Assessment of Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of the RHR Suction Isolation Valves from the Suppression Pool

The inspectors identified a finding of very low safety significance and associated NCV of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control," for the failure to adequately assess the susceptibility to pressure locking and thermal binding of the RHR suction isolation valves from the suppression pool. Specifically, the design reviews for susceptibility to pressure locking and thermal binding did not consider the operational configuration of these valves when the RHR system is operated in the shutdown cooling mode. This finding was entered into the licensee's CAP to reconcile the licensing requirements and design of the RHR system.

The performance deficiency was determined to be more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating System Cornerstone attribute of equipment performance and adversely affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the availability, reliability, and capability of systems that respond to initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences. In addition, the finding was associated with the Containment Barrier Cornerstone attribute of structures, systems, components and barrier performance and affected the cornerstone objective of providing reasonable assurance that physical design barriers protect the public from radionuclide releases caused by accidents or events. The finding screened as of very low safety significance (Green) using a Phase II evaluation. Specifically, all the core damage sequences affected were calculated to have a frequency of 1×10^{-8} per year or less. The inspectors determined the cause of this finding did not represent current licensee performance and, thus, no cross cutting aspect was assigned.

Inspection Report# : [2012004](#) (pdf)

Significance:  Sep 30, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Piping Interaction Between SW and RHR Systems Was Not Evaluated

The inspectors identified a finding of very low safety significance and associated NCV of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control," for the failure to evaluate piping interactions between the service water (SW) and residual heat removal (RHR) systems. Specifically, the SW piping was observed to vibrate and an associated support clamp was oscillating very closely to another support clamp of a nearby RHR pipe. The loads of the potential impact between the clamps were not analyzed. This finding was entered into the licensee's CAP to perform a formal evaluation of the condition to accept it as part of the design of the systems or to eliminate the condition.

The performance deficiency was determined to be more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating System Cornerstone attribute of equipment performance and adversely affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the availability, reliability, and capability of systems that respond to initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences. The finding screened as of very low safety significance (Green) because it was a design deficiency confirmed not to result in loss of operability. Specifically, the licensee performed an operability determination which concluded the affected pipe supports remained functional. The inspectors did not find an applicable cross cutting aspect which represented the underlying cause of this performance deficiency; therefore, no cross cutting aspect was assigned.

Inspection Report# : [2012004](#) (pdf)

Significance: N/A Jun 30, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: FIN Finding

Failure to Perform Surveillance Test Procedure Step

A finding of very low safety significance was identified by the inspectors for the licensee's failure to implement a station required procedure step during surveillance testing of the standby gas treatment (SBGT) system. Specifically, the licensee failed to perform the step in LaSalle procedure LOS VG M1, "Standby Gas Treatment System Operability and Inservice Test", which directs the SBGT manual initiation pushbuttons be tested every three years. Since the particular function of the pushbuttons is not required by regulation, and the procedure step was created only as a self imposed station requirement, no violation of regulatory requirements occurred. Upon notification by the inspectors of the discrepancy, the licensee promptly entered the issue into its corrective action program (CAP) for evaluation and resolution.

The finding was determined to be more than minor because the performance deficiency of failing to meet procedure requirements, if left uncorrected, could have the potential to lead to a more significant safety concern. The inspectors determined the finding could be evaluated using the SDP in accordance with IMC 0609, Attachment 0609.04, "Phase 1 Initial Screening and Characterization of Findings," Table 4a, for the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone, dated January 10, 2008. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because all questions in the Mitigating Systems column were answered "No." This finding has a cross cutting aspect in the area of human performance, work control, for failing to appropriately coordinate work activities and keep personnel apprised of work status. Specifically, because there was no "predefine" in the work management system, operators performing the surveillance test were not aware of the status of the triennial requirement (H.3(b)).

Inspection Report# : [2012003](#) (pdf)

Significance:  Dec 31, 2011

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Promptly Identify and Correct an Oil Leak on the HPCS Waterleg Pump

A finding of very low safety significance and associated non-cited violation of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, "Corrective Action," was identified by the inspectors for the failure to promptly identify and correct a condition adverse to quality. Specifically, on November 8, 2011, the inspectors identified that the oil reservoir on the Unit 1 high pressure core spray (HPCS) waterleg pump was empty, with a soiled oil absorbent pad positioned beneath it. The licensee had previously identified a leak from the reservoir and placed the pad beneath it, but did not enter the problem into the corrective action program (CAP) and did not repair the leak. Upon notification of the condition by the inspectors, the licensee immediately entered this issue into the CAP, verified operability of the HPCS system, restored the oil level, established a special log to monitor the leak, and shortly thereafter replaced the waterleg pump. Additionally, the licensee was conducting an apparent cause evaluation to determine the causes of the occurrence and to develop additional corrective actions.

The finding was determined to be more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of equipment performance and adversely affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the availability, reliability, and capability of systems that respond to initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because there was no design deficiency, no actual loss of safety function, no single train loss of safety function for greater than the technical specification allowed outage time, and no risk significance due to external events. This finding has a cross-cutting aspect in the area of problem identification and resolution, corrective action program, for the failure to maintain a low threshold for identifying issues within the CAP commensurate with their safety significance (P.1(a)).

Inspection Report# : [2011005](#) (pdf)

Barrier Integrity

Significance: G Mar 31, 2012

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Implement Proceduralized Corrective Actions

A finding of very low safety significance and associated NCV of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion V, "Instructions, Procedures, and Drawings," was identified by the inspectors for the licensee's failure to implement appropriate proceduralized compensatory measures associated with LaSalle Operability Evaluation (OpEval) 11 002, "Drywell Temp Used as Input for the Containment Analysis." Specifically, non conservative temperature limits were established for the control room shiftly surveillance procedure and written instructions were not included for drywell penetration local leak rate test parameters to ensure the adequate performance of the tests. Upon notification by the inspectors, the licensee promptly entered the issues into the corrective action program (CAP) for evaluation and revised the surveillance procedure and test instructions. The finding was determined to be more than minor because it was associated with the Barrier Integrity Cornerstone attribute of procedure quality and affected the cornerstone objective of providing reasonable assurance that physical design barriers protect the public from radionuclide releases caused by accidents or events. Additionally, if left uncorrected, the finding had the potential to lead to a more significant safety concern. The inspectors determined the finding could be evaluated using the SDP in accordance with IMC 0609, Attachment 0609.04, "Phase 1 Initial Screening and Characterization of Findings," Table 4a, for the Containment Barrier, dated January 10, 2008. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because all questions in the Containment Barrier column were answered "No." This finding has a cross cutting aspect in the area of problem identification and resolution (PI&R) CAP, because the licensee did not take appropriate corrective actions to address safety issues in a timely manner, commensurate with their safety significance and complexity. Specifically, failing to appropriately execute corrective actions that were established in an OpEval resulted in the failure to establish appropriate instructions and procedures (P.1(d)).

Inspection Report# : [2012002](#) (pdf)

Emergency Preparedness

Occupational Radiation Safety

Public Radiation Safety

Security

Although the Security Cornerstone is included in the Reactor Oversight Process assessment program, the Commission has decided that specific information related to findings and performance indicators pertaining to the Security Cornerstone will not be publicly available to ensure that security information is not provided to a possible adversary. Other than the fact that a finding or performance indicator is Green or Greater-Than-Green, security related information will not be displayed on the public web page. Therefore, the [cover letters](#) to security inspection reports may be viewed.

Miscellaneous

Last modified : November 30, 2012