



South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

August 17, 2000
NOC-AE-00000907
File No.: G26
10CFR50.73
STI: 31157458

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

South Texas Project
Unit 1
Docket No. STN 50-498
Licensee Event Report 00-005
Reactor Operator Assumes Control Room Watch with Inactive License

Pursuant to 10CFR50.73, South Texas Project submits the attached Unit 1 Licensee Event Report 00-005 regarding a Reactor Operator assuming a control room watch with an inactive license. This event did not have an adverse effect on the health and safety of the public.

Licensee commitments are listed in the Corrective Action section of the attachment. If there are any questions on this submittal, please contact either Mr. S. M. Head at (361) 972-7136 or me at (361) 972-7800.

G. L. Parkey
Plant General Manager

MKJ

Attachment: LER 00-005 (South Texas, Unit 1)

IE22

cc:

Ellis W. Merschoff
Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011-8064

John A. Nakoski
Addressee Only
Project Manager, Mail Stop OWFN/7-D-1
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Tae (T. J.) Kim
Addressee Only
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Project Manager, Mail Stop OWFN/7-D-1
Washington, DC 20555

Cornelius F. O'Keefe
c/o U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 910
Bay City, TX 77404-0910

A. H. Gutterman, Esquire
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5869

M. T. Hardt/W. C. Gunst
City Public Service
P. O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296

A. Ramirez/C. M. Canady
City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78704

Jon C. Wood
Matthews & Branscomb
One Alamo Center
106 S. St. Mary's Street, Suite 700
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3692

Institute of Nuclear Power
Operations - Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339-5957

Richard A. Ratliff
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3189

D. G. Tees/R. L. Balcom
Houston Lighting & Power Co.
P. O. Box 1700
Houston, TX 77251

C. A. Johnson/R. P. Powers
AEP - Central Power and Light Company
P. O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5012
Wadsworth, TX 77483

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)

Estimated burden per response to comply with this mandatory information collection request: 50 hrs. Reported lessons learned are incorporated into the licensing process and fed back to industry. Forward comments regarding burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0104), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information

FACILITY NAME (1)

South Texas Unit 1

DOCKET NUMBER (2)

05000 498

PAGE (3)

1 of 4

TITLE (4)

Reactor Operator Assumes Control Room Watch with Inactive License

| EVENT DATE (5) | | | LER NUMBER (6) | | | REPORT DATE (7) | | | OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8) | |
|--|-----|------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| MONTH | DAY | YEAR | YEAR | SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | REVISION NUMBER | MONTH | DAY | YEAR | FACILITY NAME | DOCKET NUMBER |
| 07 | 20 | 2000 | 2000 | 00500 | | 08 | 17 | 2000 | | 05000 |
| THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11) | | | | | | | | | | |
| OPERATING MODE (9) | | 1 | | 20.2201(b) | | 20.2203(a)(2)(v) | | X 50.73(a)(2)(i) | | 50.73(a)(2)(viii) |
| POWER LEVEL (10) | | 100% | | 20.2203(a)(1) | | 20.2203(a)(3)(i) | | 50.73(a)(2)(ii) | | 50.73(a)(2)(x) |
| | | | | 20.2203(a)(2)(i) | | 20.2203(a)(3)(ii) | | 50.73(a)(2)(iii) | | 73.71 |
| | | | | 20.2203(a)(2)(ii) | | 20.2203(a)(4) | | 50.73(a)(2)(iv) | | OTHER |
| | | | | 20.2203(a)(2)(iii) | | 50.36(c)(1) | | 50.73(a)(2)(v) | | Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A |
| | | | | 20.2203(a)(2)(iv) | | 50.36(c)(2) | | 50.73(a)(2)(vii) | | |

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME

Scott Head - Licensing Supervisor

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

(361) 972-7136

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

| CAUSE | SYSTEM | COMPONENT | MANUFACTURER | REPORTABLE TO EPIX | CAUSE | SYSTEM | COMPONENT | MANUFACTURER | REPORTABLE TO EPIX |
|-------|--------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|-------|--------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE) NO

EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)

MONTH DAY YEAR

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines) (16)

On July 17, 2000, with Unit 1 at 100% power, it was determined that a Licensed Reactor Operator assigned to day staff incorrectly assumed the watch in the Unit 1 control room. This individual has a valid NRC Reactor Operator's license but did not meet the requirements for maintaining his license "Active" in accordance with 10CFR55.53, and NUREG-1262. This is a violation of Technical Specification 6.2.2.a Table 6.2-1. Technical Specifications Control Room staffing requires that each on-duty shift shall be composed of at least two Licensed Reactor Operators in the control room when in modes 1, 2, 3 and 4. This requirement was not maintained in that a Reactor Operator with an inactive license was assigned to fill one of the two required Reactor Operator positions in the Unit 1 control room for a short period of time (< 2 hrs). The root cause of the event was the lack of questioning attitude on the part of the Reactor Operator and the Unit Supervisor to validate qualification concerns. Corrective actions for this event include correcting the "Active License List" in both control rooms and discussing this event in Operator Requalification training. In addition, the procedure for Operator License Maintenance will be revised to require a copy of the signed original "Active License List" be posted in the main control rooms.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

| FACILITY NAME (1) | DOCKET | LER NUMBER (6) | | | PAGE (3) |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| | | YEAR | SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | REVISION NUMBER | |
| South Texas Unit 1 | 05000 498 | 2000 | -- 005 | -- 00 | 2 of 4 |

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

On July 17, 2000, with Unit 1 at 100% power, it was determined that a Licensed Reactor Operator assigned to day staff incorrectly assumed the watch in the Unit 1 control room. This individual has a valid NRC Reactor Operator's license but did not meet the requirements for maintaining his license "Active" in accordance with 10CFR55.53, and NUREG-1262. This is a violation of Technical Specification 6.2.2.a Table 6.2-1. Technical Specifications Control Room staffing requires that each on-duty shift shall be composed of at least two Licensed Reactor Operators in the control room when in modes 1, 2, 3 and 4. This requirement was not maintained in that a Reactor Operator with an inactive license was assigned to fill one of the two required Reactor Operator positions in the Unit 1 control room for a short period of time (< 2 hrs).

At approximately 0645 on July 17, 2000, the Unit 1 control room requested a day staff Reactor Operator to provide short-term shift coverage for a late arrival. The Reactor Operator informed the control room that he did not believe his license was active. The on-shift Unit Supervisor checked the Active License List, which was in error, in the Shift Supervisor's office and verified the day staff Reactor Operator was on the Active License List. This information was relayed back to the day staff Reactor Operator and he agreed to relieve the watch. Upon arriving in the control room, he again stated to the control room staff members that he didn't think his license was active. The Reactor Operator was again reminded that his name was on the Active License List and subsequently assumed the Secondary Operator Watch at 0710. Neither the on-shift nor the on-coming Shift Supervisors were informed of the Reactor Operator's concern.

While the day staff Reactor Operator was standing the Secondary Operator Watch the other Reactor Operator on shift, standing the Primary Operator Watch, was absent from the control room for approximately two minutes. There were at least two other Licensed Senior Reactor Operators in the control room at all times while the day staff Reactor Operator was on watch. The day staff Reactor Operator was relieved at 0815.

A Senior Reactor Operator maintains the "Active NRC License List" for the South Texas Project. However, the Senior Reactor Operator who normally maintains this list was on vacation, and another Senior Reactor Operator agreed to maintain the active license list for the third quarter starting July 1, 2000. In preparing the list, he received electronic mails and/or forms from the Operations Staff substantiating the fact they were maintaining active licenses. The day staff Reactor Operator who assumed the watch on July 17, 2000, submitted such a memo indicating that he would not be maintaining an active license. The Senior Reactor Operator correctly compiled the list and submitted it for signature to the Generation Support Manager. Following signature, the list was transmitted via electronic mail to both control rooms. In doing so, a draft copy containing the names of three individuals who had not met the requirements for maintaining active licenses, including the Reactor Operator who took the watch on July 17, 2000 was inadvertently transmitted.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

| FACILITY NAME (1) | DOCKET | LER NUMBER (6) | | | PAGE (3) |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| South Texas Unit 1 | 05000 498 | YEAR | SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | REVISION NUMBER | 3 of 4 |
| | | 2000 | -- 005 | -- 00 | |

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT (cont)

This electronic copy of the list was the one used to determine the day staff Reactor Operator had an active license. Although the "Active License List" was used to verify the day staff Reactor Operator's status, according to the procedure for Operator License Maintenance, it is the Reactor Operator's responsibility to ensure their license is current and active prior to assuming any NRC license required watch or position.

No other individuals have assumed licensed duties without the requisite maintenance watches. The other two licensed individuals, whose names appeared on the incorrect list, were verified not to have stood any watches since their licenses became inactive.

CAUSE OF EVENT

The root cause of this event was the lack of questioning attitude by the Reactor Operator and the Unit Supervisor to validate qualification concerns. A contributing cause was an informal process was used to distribute the active license list to the control rooms.

ANALYSIS OF EVENT

This event is reportable based on a violation of T.S. 6.2.2.a Table 6.2-1 in that minimum staffing requirements were not maintained. This event was evaluated under Condition 2G of the STP Operating License in accordance with 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(I)(B) and NUREG-1022 as a condition prohibited by Technical Specifications. The event was reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at 1254 CDT on July 20, 2000.

There was no safety significance associated with this event with respect to reactivity manipulations because the Reactor Operator performed no reactivity manipulations and no plant transients occurred while he had the watch. The day staff Reactor Operator has 2.5 years experience as a licensed Reactor Operator and his license became "in-active" on July 1, 2000. This event did not involve any personnel injury, radiation exposure, offsite dose release, or damage any equipment important to safety.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

1. The "Active License" lists were corrected in both control rooms. This list is effective until September 30, 2000.
2. The procedure titled "Licensed Operator License Maintenance" will be revised to include a requirement to post a copy of the signed original "Active License" list in the main control rooms. This action will be complete by September 15, 2000.
3. Constructive discipline has been administered to the day staff Reactor Operator and the on shift Unit Supervisor.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

| FACILITY NAME (1) | DOCKET | LER NUMBER (6) | | | PAGE (3) |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| South Texas Unit 1 | 05000 498 | YEAR | SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | REVISION NUMBER | 4 of 4 |
| | | 2000 | -- 005 | -- 00 | |

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS (cont)

- This event will be discussed with operations crews, including the requirements for maintaining an active license status and the proper notifications of that status to the person responsible for maintaining the "Active License List". This action will be complete by September 15, 2000.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the past three years there have been no similar reportable events involving a Control Room Watch with an Inactive License.