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February 5, 2001

The Pennsylvania State University
304 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802-1504

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Re: Reportable Occurrence: Violation of Tech Spec 4.3.3
License No. R-2, Docket No. 50-005

Dear Sir or Madame:

This 14-day report is being submitted in accordance with Sections 6.5.2 and 6.6.2 of the PSBR Technical Specifications (TS). Initial voice mail notification of this reportable occurrence was made to Marvin Mendonca, NRC Headquarters, and Tom Dragoun, NRC Region 1, at approximately 0840 hours on February 2, 2001. These notifications were confirmed in writing the same day with copies mailed to the Document Control Desk as well as to Mendonca and Dragoun

Tech Spec 4.3.3 states: "Pool water conductivity shall be measured and recorded daily when the reactor is to be operated, or at monthly intervals when the reactor is shut down for this time period." A violation of Tech Spec 4.3.3 occurred when the pool water conductivity was not measured and recorded on February 1, 2001 prior to the reactor being operated on that day.

Description of Event:

On February 2, 2001 when daily water data was being collected it was realized that there was no water data collected on February 1, 2001. The operator performing the reactor checkout on February 1st mistakenly thought the data collected for January 31, 2001 was the data for February 1st and recorded the January 31st conductivity value on the checkout for February 1st.

Review of the Event:

On the morning of February 1st the operator performed a normal daily checkout. A portion of that checkout verifies that pool water data has been taken and also records from that data the pool water conductivity value. The operator mistakenly read the data from the previous day and recorded that conductivity value. The pool water data for a given day may be taken by any staff member or by the operator performing the daily checkout. Since the operator performing the checkout mistakenly believed the data had already been taken no data was taken for February 1st.

When pool water data was measured and recorded on the morning of February 2nd no data was found for the previous day. The checkout operator for February 1st was interviewed and it was determined that he had mistakenly used the data for the previous day, January 31st.

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The measured conductivity values for the 31st and the 2nd were 1.25 and 1.26 micromhos/cm respectively. The conductivity meter is in constant service and the alarm on both days was verified to be set a value of 2 micromhos/cm. The console alarm messages were reviewed to verify that no alarm was received from the conductivity cell. Thus, there is positive evidence that the allowable conductivity of less than or equal to 5 micromhos/cm (Tech Spec 3.3.5) was not exceeded.

This event had no safety impact and is of low safety significance.

Corrective and Preventative Action:

The event was reviewed during the facility status meeting on Monday, February 5, 2001. Licensed operators were reminded of the need to verify the appropriate dates for the water data and the need to check each other's work to avoid such mistakes. Additionally, it was decided to have the operator performing the checkout take the water data for that day, even if similar data has already been taken by another staff member.

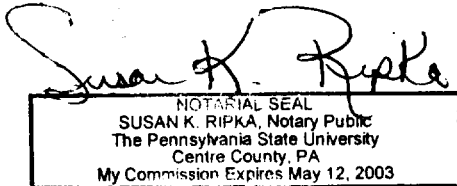
If you have any questions regarding this event, please call Dr. Sears, the RSEC Director, at 814-865-6351.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eva J. Pell
Vice President for Research
Dean of the Graduate School

Cc: M. Mendonca (NRC Headquarters)
T. Dragoun (NRC Region I)
F. Sears (RSEC Director)
L. Burton (Assoc. Dean)
D. Sathianathan (PSRSC Chairman)



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