



Entergy Nuclear Northeast
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
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April 16, 2001
JAFP-01-0089

T. A. Sullivan
Vice President, Operations-JAF

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: **James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-333**

**10 CFR Part 21 Notification
Replacement Foxboro Differential Pressure Transmitter (Flow Control) for
the High Pressure Coolant Injection System Found Shorted to Ground**

Dear Sir:

This report is being submitted in accordance with 10CFR21.21(d) to address a reportable defect. The defect deals with a replacement Foxboro differential pressure transmitter that was found shorted to ground in the conduit pressure seal assembly during the installation process. See the Attachment for specific details.

There are no commitments contained in this report.

Questions concerning this report may be addressed to Mr. Timothy Page, at (315) 349-6209.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. A. Sullivan" with a stylized flourish at the end.

T. A. SULLIVAN

TAS:TP:las
Attachment

cc: USNRC, Region 1
USNRC, Project Directorate
USNRC Resident Inspector
INPO Records Center
Foxboro Company
Weed Instrument Company

JE28

I. Name and Address

Mr. T. A. Sullivan – Vice President, Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 110
Lycoming, NY 13093

II. Facility, Activity or Component

James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant (JAF)

A replacement Foxboro differential pressure transmitter was found shorted to ground in the conduit pressure seal assembly during installation. The transmitter (23FT-82) is used in High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) System to provide controls and indication for HPCI pump discharge flow.

Part No. N-E13DM-IAH2-CI
Foxboro serial # 5147590
Purchase Order No. 82-4085

III. Constructor or Supplier

The Foxboro Company originally supplied the transmitter to JAF, at which time it was placed in warehouse stock.

Foxboro Company
33 Commercial Street
Foxboro, MA 02035

The Weed Instrument Company has since taken over the Foxboro transmitter line used in the nuclear industry.

Weed Instrument Company
707 Jeffrey Way
Roundrock, TX 78664

IV. Defect and Safety Hazard

A replacement Foxboro differential pressure transmitter was found shorted to ground in the conduit pressure seal assembly during installation. The replacement transmitter was drawn from the JAF warehouse stock to replace a transmitter installed in the High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) System. The short to ground was identified during subsequent troubleshooting after the transmitter failed to satisfactorily meet its calibration requirements as part of the installation and testing process. The plant remained in the applicable TS action statement for HPCI being inoperable throughout this period due to ongoing maintenance activities. The transmitter (23FT-82) is used to provide controls and indication for HPCI pump discharge flow. Since the flow transmitter is used to control HPCI System flow into the reactor pressure vessel, failure of the transmitter, if it had been installed, could have affected the ability to achieve full system flow to the reactor pressure vessel.

This could have caused the failure of a safety-related system to perform its safety function. Therefore, a substantial safety hazard existed in that the potential existed for a major degradation of essential safety-related equipment.

V. Date

This defect was discovered on February 13, 2001.

VI. Location and Number of Defective Components

The only defective differential pressure transmitter was the replacement transmitter, which is used in the HPCI System to provide controls and indication for HPCI pump discharge flow. One other transmitter that had been in stock was installed and calibrated satisfactorily. There were no other transmitters remaining in stock at that point in time. Since then, one transmitter has been received by JAF and is in a hold status pending receipt inspection.

There are several transmitters of the same model used in similar applications in other systems at JAF. There are no known problems with any of these transmitters.

VII. Corrective Action

A replacement transmitter was obtained from stock, installed in the system and calibrated satisfactorily.

After discussions with the vendor, the defective transmitter is being held for further investigation and troubleshooting.

VIII. Advice

During discussions with personnel from Weed Instrument Company, they noted that there have been no other similar problems reported to them regarding pressure seals in units that they have shipped.