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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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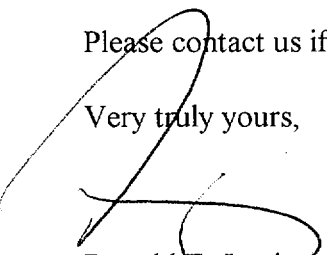
Re: St. Lucie Unit 1
Docket No. 50-335
Date of Event: March 8, 2001
Technical Specification Special Report
Radiation Monitors Inoperable Greater Than 72 Hours
Due to Unavailable Emergency Diesel Generator

The attached special report is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of St. Lucie Unit 1 Technical Specification 3.3.3.1, Action b, and Technical Specification 6.9.2. This report provides notification that a plant radiation monitor was inoperable for greater than 72 hours due to an unavailable emergency diesel generator. The emergency diesel generator was out of service for corrective maintenance.

Alternate means of radiation monitoring were implemented in accordance with the Technical Specification ACTION statement. Additionally, as described in the attached special report, FPL submitted a license amendment to eliminate the overly conservative emergency power requirements for the noncritical quality-related radiation monitors.

Please contact us if there any questions on this information.

Very truly yours,



Donald E. Jernigan
Vice President
St. Lucie Plant

DEJ/EJW/KWF

Attachment

cc: Luis A. Reyes, Regional Administrator, USNRC, Region II
Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC, St. Lucie Plant

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SPECIAL REPORT

I. TITLE

Plant Radiation Monitors Inoperable Greater Than 72 Hours Due to Unavailable Emergency Diesel Generator.

II. EVENT DESCRIPTION

On June 11, 2001, St. Lucie Unit 1 was in Mode 1 at 100% power. The St. Lucie Unit 1 1B emergency diesel generator (EDG) was declared out of service due to a leaking radiator. The corrective maintenance to replace the defective radiator lasted 6 days (out of a maximum Technical Specification (TS) allowed outage time of 14 days). The Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) for TS 3.3.3.1, Radiation Monitoring, states that:

“The radiation monitoring instrumentation channels shown in Table 3.3-6 shall be OPERABLE with their alarm setpoints within the specified limits. *The emergency power source may be inoperable in Modes 5 and 6.”*

Therefore, in order for a radiation monitor, capable of being powered from an emergency power source, to be considered OPERABLE the LCO implies that the radiation monitor must have an operable EDG. Radiation monitor RSC-26-3, the B train ECCS exhaust noble gas monitor is capable of being powered from the 1B EDG. The radiation monitor was fully functional except for the capability of being powered by an EDG. ACTION Statement 15 applies to this monitor and states that:

“With the number of channels OPERABLE less than required by the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement, either restore the inoperable Channel(s) to OPERABLE status within 72 hours, or:

- 1) Initiate the preplanned alternate method of monitoring the appropriate parameter(s), and*
- 2) Prepare and submit a Special Report to the Commission pursuant to Specification 6.9.2 within 14 days following the event outlining the action taken, the cause of the inoperability and the plans and schedule for restoring the system to operable status.”*

On June 13, 2001, the 72-hour time period to restore the subject radiation monitor to operable status expired. Because the radiation monitor was fully functional and the degradation was only due to the loss of emergency power capability, the procedurally defined ACTION Statement 15 alternate monitoring method consisted of continued use of the radiation monitor.

III. CAUSE OF THE EVENT

The cause for this special report was that the corrective maintenance for the 1B EDG was greater than 72 hours. However, the asterisked statement within the LCO for TS 3.3.3.1 should have been removed by a previous license amendment. With the exception of the containment area radiation monitors, the radiation detectors listed in TS Table 3.3-6 are essentially single train quality-related systems, in that redundant capability is not provided by design. The containment area radiation monitors are part of a safety-related, redundant system used for initiating the containment isolation signal (CIS).

IV. ACTIONS TAKEN

Short Term:

Alternate monitoring was implemented in accordance with TS 3.3.3.1, ACTION Statement 15.

Long Term:

St. Lucie submitted a license amendment to correct TS 3.3.3.1 by deleting the statement "**The emergency power source may be inoperable in Modes 5 and 6*" by FPL letter L-2001-078 dated April 18, 2001.

V. SCHEDULE FOR RESTORING SYSTEM

The corrective maintenance for the 1B EDG was completed on June 17, 2001. The radiation monitor was declared back in service at that time, and Action Statement 15 for the B ECCS exhaust noble gas monitor was exited.