Entergy

Entergy Nuclear Southwest
Entergy Operations, Inc.
17265 River Road
Killona, LA 70066-0751
Tel 504 739 6475
Fax 504 739 6698
aharris@entergy.com

Alan J. Harris
Director, Nuclear Safety Assurance
Waterford 3

W3F1-2001-0069
A4.05
PR

July 20, 2001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Waterford 3 SES
Docket No. 50-382
License No. NPF-38
10 Day Special Report

Gentlemen:

Attached is Special Report Number SR-01-001-00 for Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3. This Special Report is submitted per Technical Requirements Manual Section 3.3.3.4 Action 'a.' due to instrument channels being inoperable on the primary meteorological tower for more than the seven day allowed outage time.

There are no commitments contained in this submittal. If you have any questions, please contact O. Pipkins at (504) 739-6707.

Very truly yours,

A.J. Harris
Director
Nuclear Safety Assurance

AJH/OPP/cbh
Attachment

cc: E.W. Merschoff (NRC Region IV), N. Kalyanam (NRC-NRR),
J. Smith, N.S. Reynolds, NRC Resident Inspectors Office

IE22

Primary Meteorological Tower
Inoperable for Greater Than Seven Days

INTRODUCTION:

In order to obtain meteorological data, Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3 has two meteorological towers (primary and secondary). The towers are equipped with instrumentation needed to measure wind speed, wind direction, and differential temperature. The operability requirements for the two towers are specified in Technical Requirements Manual Section 3.3.3.4. and Table 3.3-8.

NARRATIVE:

On July 4, 2001 at about 1615, the Operations shift crew received computer alarms associated with primary meteorological tower ambient air temperatures, wet bulb temperature, and delta-T computer points reading incorrectly. A review of plant data indicated that the primary meteorological tower 33-foot temperature element was reading incorrectly at the time that the computer alarm was received. The temperature element was declared inoperable and entered into the equipment-out-of-service (EOS) tracking system (EOS 01-0309). The Operations crew commenced taking sling psychrometer readings for Technical Specification surveillance logs (procedure OP-903-001).

After a shift change, further review of plant data indicated that primary meteorological tower 33-foot and 199-foot wind direction indication had also became erratic at the time that the computer alarm was received on July 4, 2001. Both instruments recorded values that were outside of the 0-360 degree window. It was noted that there was thunderstorm activity in the area at the time of this event. The primary meteorological tower 33-foot and 199-foot wind speed/direction transmitters were declared inoperable at 2240 on July 4, 2001, and EOS 01-0310 was initiated. TRM 3.3.3.4 was entered. Troubleshooting and repairs were performed (MAI 428202). Based on the condition of the failed components, it is evident that the damage was done by a lightening strike during a thunderstorm.

Some spare parts needed to restore the meteorological tower to service were off-site for repair. Retrieval of the repaired spare parts was expedited. The parts were available on site for installation on the seventh day (July 11, 2001) of the seven day allowed outage time (TRM 3.3.3.4). Repair work commenced when parts became available and the technicians replaced the 33-foot wind direction unit. The 199-foot wind direction unit (prior to repairing the 33-foot wind direction unit) was verified to be tracking properly by the technicians. Upon completion of the 33-foot wind direction unit the technicians performed an inspection of the meteorological tower via the computer and observed the 199-foot wind direction unit had failed and was no longer tracking properly. A review of the plant data indicated it had failed during the inclement weather following the repair of the 33-foot wind direction unit. Inclement weather conditions (lightening strikes) in the area resulted in further repair work being postponed until the next (eighth) day. The repair included replacement of the 199-foot wind direction unit. The tower was declared operable on July 12, 2001 at 1739 and the TRM action was exited. The total out of service time for the primary meteorological tower wind speed/direction transmitters was 7 days 19 hours.