

Licensee/Facility:

Notification:

Entergy Operations, Inc.  
Grand Gulf 1  
Port Gibson, Mississippi

MR Number: 2-94-0042  
Date: 06/01/94

Dockets: 50-416  
BWR/GE-6

Subject: INFORMATION CONFERENCE CALL - SLOW CONTROL ROD INSERTION TIME  
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Reportable Event Number: N/A

Discussion:

As a followup to previous problems in March 1994, the licensee initiated a telephone conference call on May 31, 1994 at 11:30 a.m., (EST) with pertinent NRR and Region II personnel to update the Commission on the results to date of Grand Gulf's first 60-day interval control rod insertion testing.

The subject testing commenced Saturday, May 28, 1994, and although the surveillance performed met Technical Specifications, two slow rods were identified. Since all ASCO solenoids were replaced during an outage in March 1994, the Plant Safety Review Committee felt there should have been no slow rods present and requested 100 percent control rod insertion testing. As of this conference call, 21 out of 99 control rods tested had "slow" insertion times as defined by the licensee. (These times still met the Technical Specification requirements). Control rods with slow insertion times had the ASCO solenoids replaced and were retested

satisfactorily. It is anticipated that it will take another 48 hours to complete all (193) control rod tests. All testing is being conducted at 70 percent power.

A "Functional Assessment Team" comprised of plant engineers has been examining all slow rod records (procurement, installation, etc.) for a possible common mode failure; however, no correlation has been identified to date. Three slow ASCO solenoid have been sent to ASCO's New Jersey facility for testing.

An independent group of "Industrial Experts on Failure Analysis" is on site evaluating the situation.

The licensee hopes to have the root cause identified within a few days .

Regional Action:

The Resident Inspectors are reviewing licensee actions and plans.

Region II has communicated these findings with NRR (Projects and the Vendor Branch).

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