

Point Beach Auxiliary Feedwater Pump/Loss of Instrument Air Issue - EDO Bullets

On November 29, 2001, the Point Beach licensee identified that, during specific accident scenarios, the auxiliary feedwater pumps could be without a discharge flow path allowing damage to the pumps to occur in a short period of time. The specific scenarios (including loss-of-offsite power and loss of instrument air) are applicable to all AFWPs at Point Beach. The AFWP configuration at Point Beach is unique, in that the pump recirculation valves fail closed on loss of instrument air (IA). Region III performed a special inspection at Point Beach from December 3 to 7, 2001, to gather more information concerning this issue. The special inspection team exited with the licensee on 12/13/01 and discussed the following findings;

- potential violation associated with procedures. EOPs and abnormal operating procedures did not prioritize restoration of instrument air or provide specific direction to operators concerning isolation of the AFWP discharge flow path.
- potential violation associated with corrective actions. The special inspection team identified seven examples of prior licensee opportunities to have identified the AFW system vulnerability.
- potential violation associated with Appendix R. A fire in any one of 4 specific fire areas could lead to loss of AFW redundant train capabilities necessary to achieve cold shutdown.
- unresolved item associated with past AFW system operability. Region III continues to review this issue which is highly dependent on the specific wording in the licensing basis.

Region III and the licensee are in agreement on the initial red risk characterization of this issue. Final risk determinations (which could vary by as much as two orders of magnitude from the initial characterization) will be highly dependent on the credit given for specific operator actions while manipulating the AFW system.

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