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**Rick J. King**  
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April 22, 2003

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

Subject: River Bend Station  
Docket No. 50-458  
License No. NPF-47  
Licensee Event Report 50-458 / 03-001-00

File Nos. G9.5, G9.25.1.3

RBG-46105  
RBF1-03-0068

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with 10CFR50.73, enclosed is the subject Licensee Event Report.  
There are no commitments in this document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick J. King".

RJK/dhw  
enclosure

IE22

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cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV  
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Estimated burden per response to comply with this mandatory information collection request, 50 hours. Reported lessons learned are incorporated into the licensing process and fed back to industry. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 E6), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to bjs1@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0104), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**

(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)

<b>FACILITY NAME (1)</b> River Bend Station	<b>DOCKET NUMBER (2)</b> 050- 458	<b>PAGE (3)</b> 1 OF 3
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**TITLE (4)**  
Unplanned Reactor Scram Due to Fluid Leak in Main Turbine Electrohydraulic Control System

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MO	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REV NO	MO	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
02	22	2003	2003	001	00	04	22	2003	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
										05000
										05000

<b>OPERATING MODE (9)</b> 1	<b>THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR § (Check all that apply) (11)</b>									
<b>POWER LEVEL (10)</b> 90%	20.2201(b)	20 2203(a)(3)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(ii)(B)	50 73(a)(2)(ix)(A)						
	20.2201(d)	20.2203(a)(4)	50.73(a)(2)(iii)	50 73(a)(2)(x)						
	20.2203(a)(1)	50 36(c)(1)(i)(A)	X 50.73(a)(2)(iv)(A)	73 71(a)(4)						
	20.2203(a)(2)(i)	50.36(c)(1)(ii)(A)	50.73(a)(2)(v)(A)	73.71(a)(5)						
	20.2203(a)(2)(ii)	50 36(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(v)(B)	OTHER Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A						
	20 2203(a)(2)(iii)	50 46(a)(3)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(v)(C)							
	20 2203(a)(2)(iv)	50.73(a)(2)(i)(A)	50.73(a)(2)(v)(D)							
	20.2203(a)(2)(v)	50.73(a)(2)(i)(B)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)							
20 2203(a)(2)(vi)	50 73(a)(2)(i)(C)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)								
	20 2203(a)(3)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(ii)(A)	50 73(a)(2)(viii)(B)							

<b>LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)</b>	
<b>NAME</b> J.W. Leavines, Manager - Licensing	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)</b> 225-381-4642

<b>COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)</b>									
CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANU-FACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANU-FACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX

<b>SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)</b>				<b>EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)</b>	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
X	YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE).		NO				

**ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines) (16)**

At approximately 1:23 a.m. CST on February 22, 2003, with the plant operating at 90 percent power in end-of-cycle coastdown, an unplanned manual reactor scram was initiated. During the scram recovery, the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) system was manually actuated to assist in reactor water level control. This event is being reported in accordance with 10CFR50.73(A)(2)(iv)(a) as a valid actuation of the reactor protection system and RCIC.

The scram was necessitated by a fluid leak in the main turbine electrohydraulic control system that significantly depleted the system. Subsequent investigation determined that the leak occurred when a section of hydraulic tubing near the main turbine control valves developed a through-wall crack. The analysis of this event is continuing.

Plant safety systems responded normally to the manual scram and the RCIC initiation. This event was of minimal significance to the health and safety of the public.

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FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
River Bend Station	050-458	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	2 OF 3
		2003	- 001	- 00	

NARRATIVE (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

REPORTED CONDITION

At approximately 1:23 a.m. CST on February 22, 2003, with the plant operating at 90 percent power in end-of-cycle coastdown, an unplanned manual reactor scram was initiated. During the scram recovery, the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) system was manually actuated to assist in reactor water level control. This event is being reported in accordance with 10CFR50.73(A)(2)(iv)(a) as a valid actuation of the reactor protection system (RPS) and RCIC.

INVESTIGATION

Approximately ten minutes prior to the scram, an alarm actuated in the main control room indicating a low level in the main turbine (\*\*TRB\*\*) electrohydraulic control (EHC) oil reservoir. An operator was dispatched to investigate, and reported that the EHC pump (\*\*P\*\*) was cavitating and that there appeared to be smoke in the area of the turbine front standard. The scram was initiated in anticipation of losing EHC system function. The main turbine unloaded normally as steam pressure decreased, and the main generator output breaker tripped on reverse power as designed. The EHC system was then shut down.

Following the scram, reactor water level lowered to the low alarm setpoint (Level 3). The feedwater level setpoint setdown, reactor recirculation pumps downshift, and the suppression pool cooling system trip all occurred as expected. Approximately 35 seconds later, reactor water level rose to the high alarm setpoint (Level 8). Due to a pre-existing deficiency, the "C" feedwater regulating valve (\*\*FCV\*\*) was not able to close to less than 80 percent open. A high reactor water alarm (Level 8) signal was received, tripping all three main feedwater pumps as designed. RCIC was initiated to provide water level control. The "A" loop of the residual heat removal system was placed into the suppression pool cooling mode as required for RCIC operation.

Subsequent to the RCIC initiation, main feedwater pump "A" was restarted to provide level control. Three minutes after the "A" main feedwater pump was restarted, reactor water level reached Level 8 for a second time. This automatically closed the RCIC system injection valve and tripped the feedwater pump. Five minutes later, operators restarted main feedwater pump "B" and reactor water level increased to Level 8 for the third time approximately 4 minutes after the pump start. Reactor water level control using RCIC was established at 2:01 a.m. The RCIC system was shut down at 4:00 p.m. on the day of the event after the main feedwater system was put back into service.

During the refueling outage subsequent to the reported event, internal inspections of the "C" feedwater regulating valve, the "C" main feed pump discharge check valve

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NARRATIVE (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

(\*\*V\*\*), and the downstream isolation valve (\*\*ISV\*\*) were performed. Part of a washer missing from the discharge check valve was found inside the feedwater regulating valve that was preventing it from closing past the 80 percent open position. Additionally, the disc nut from the check valve was missing, and was found lodged in the seat of the isolation valve. This was preventing the isolation valve from closing completely. These conditions were determined to be significant contributing factors to the difficulty in maintaining reactor water level less than Level 8 during this event.

CAUSAL ANALYSIS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The investigation determined that the leak occurred when a section of hydraulic tubing near the main turbine control valves developed a through-wall crack. The analysis of this event is continuing. A complete root cause analysis and corrective action plan will be provided in a supplement to this LER.

SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE

The plant was shutdown following the discovery of a leak in the main turbine EHC system. A manual reactor scram was initiated and all safety systems operated per design. Prior to the event, reactor power was at 90 percent in end-of-cycle coastdown. The core was operating with approximately 15 percent margin to thermal power margins. No power excursion or pressure excursion were seen in post-trip data. Therefore, the safety limits specified in Technical Specification were not challenged.

Reactor water level was maintained above the Level 2 setpoint at which emergency core cooling systems are actuated. Water level was controlled and maintained by the RCIC system. Reactor feedwater pumps remained available following their automatic shutdown upon reaching Level 8, although the decision was made to utilize RCIC for an expeditious recovery. Reactor water level was returned to a normal post-shutdown range in a timely manner.

There was no release of steam to the containment, drywell, or suppression pool; therefore, there was no challenge to containment integrity. The reactor vessel pressure did not exceed the first safety relief valve set point of 1133 psig, or the high pressure scram setpoint (nominally 1094.7 psig); therefore, there was no challenge to the reactor coolant pressure boundary.

As none of the barriers to fission product release were challenged, there was no adverse effect on nuclear safety. This event had minimal effect on the health and safety of the public.

(NOTE: Energy Industry Component Identification codes are annotated as (\*\*XX\*\*).)