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October 14, 2003
JAFP-03-0138

T.A. Sullivan
Site Vice President - JAF

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: **Docket No. 50-333**
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT: LER-03-001-00 (CR-JAF-2003-03930;
CR-JAF-2003-04203)

**Automatic Reactor Shutdown Due to Grid Instability Associated With
the August 14, 2003 Transmission Grid Blackout and related Plant
MODE Change with the A EDG Subsystem Inoperable**

Dear Sir:

This report is submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(iv)(a), "Any event or condition that resulted in manual or automatic actuation of any of the systems listed in paragraph (a)(2)(iv)(B) of this section." This report is also submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B), "Any operation or condition which was prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications."

There are no commitments contained in this report.

Questions concerning this report may be addressed to Mr. John Hoddy at (315) 349-6538.

Very truly yours,


T. A. Sullivan

TAS:JH:jh
Enclosure

cc: USNRC, Region 1
USNRC, Project Directorate
USNRC Resident Inspector
INPO Records Center

IE22

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)

1. FACILITY NAME James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant	2. DOCKET NUMBER 05000333	3. PAGE 1 OF 7
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4. TITLE
Automatic Reactor Shutdown Due to Grid Instability Associated With the August 14, 2003 Transmission Grid Blackout and related Plant MODE Change with the A EDG Subsystem Inoperable

5. EVENT DATE			6. LER NUMBER			7. REPORT DATE			8. OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED	
MO	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REV NO	MO	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
08	14	03	03	- 01 -	00	10	14	03	N/A	05000
									N/A	05000

9. OPERATING MODE 1	10. POWER LEVEL 100	11. THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check all that apply)								
		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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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)						

12. LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER

NAME Mr. John R. Hoddy, Sr. Reg. Compliance Specialist	TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) (315) 349-6538
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13. COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANU-FACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANU-FACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX

14. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED				15. EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE		
YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO				

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

On August 14, 2003 at 1611 hours, with the reactor operating at 100 percent power, a reactor scram occurred due to unstable conditions on the transmission grid causing rapid cycling of Turbine Control Valves (TCVs). This resulted in low turbine Electro-hydraulic Control System (EHC) oil pressure which caused a "Turbine Control Valve Fast Closure, EHC Oil Pressure — Low" Scram as instrumentation sensed conditions similar to a TCV fast closure - generator load rejection. A Main Turbine trip and generator trip followed approximately thirty-five seconds later, accompanied by a normal fast transfer of plant 4 kV busses to the offsite 115 kV supply. A subsequent loss of offsite power followed approximately two minutes later. Plant Emergency Diesel Generators (EDG) started and provided power to safety related plant loads. A cooldown was conducted using Safety Relief Valves, High Pressure Coolant Injection, and Reactor Core Isolation Cooling. MODE 4 was achieved on August 15, 2003 at 2220 hours.

On August 29, 2003 at 1015 hours, during surveillance testing, the A EDG subsystem was determined to be inoperable due to out of tolerance no-load frequency, traceable to recovery from the August 14 event. A plant start-up had occurred subsequent to August 14, with an accompanying plant MODE change prohibited by Technical Specifications.

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Event Codes in []

Event Description:

Scram due to grid instability, with subsequent loss of offsite power

On August 14, 2003 at 1611 hours, with the reactor operating at 100 percent power, an automatic reactor shutdown (scram) occurred due to conditions associated with grid instability. Grid perturbations ultimately led to an area-wide transmission system blackout. The unstable conditions on the transmission grid caused rapid cycling of Turbine Control Valves (TCVs) [JJ] resulting in low Electro-hydraulic System (EHC) [TG] oil pressure. Low EHC oil pressure caused the plant Reactor Protection System (RPS) [JC] instrumentation to sense conditions similar to a TCV fast closure (Reactor Thermal Power (RTP) \geq 29%; EHC oil pressure \geq 500 psig, \leq 850 psig), resulting in a "Turbine Control Valve Fast Closure, EHC Oil Pressure — Low" Scram. The Main Generator [TB] remained synchronized to the grid for approximately 35 seconds with transmission grid conditions continuing to fluctuate, at which point the Main Turbine [TA] tripped on high reactor water level, followed by a generator trip and a normal fast transfer of plant 4 kV busses (busses 10100 through 10600) [EA] to the 115 kV offsite power supply [FK].

At approximately 1613 hours, degraded conditions on the 115 kV transmission system resulted in an actuation of plant Loss of Power instrumentation [JE], causing an automatic start of plant Emergency Diesel Generators [EK] and an automatic transfer of plant emergency busses (busses 10500 and 10600) from the degraded offsite circuits to the EDGs. Degrading conditions on the 115 kV system initially actuated 4.16 kV Emergency Bus Undervoltage (Degraded Voltage) circuitry on undervoltage, starting a transfer sequence timer (nominal 45 second time delay). Shortly thereafter, continuing 115 kV voltage degradation actuated 4.16 kV Emergency Bus Undervoltage (Loss of Voltage) circuitry (nominal 2.5 second time delay), which timed to completion, resulting in the described transfer.

Following the transfer, the emergency busses (i.e. 10500 and 10600) were being supplied by EDGs. Plant non-safety related loads (busses 10100, 10200, 10300, and 10400) remained supplied from the 115 kV transmission system. Commencing shortly after 1615 hours and extending over a period of approximately forty-five seconds, plant non-safety related load breakers tripped on overcurrent and/or undervoltage such that by 1616 hours, power was lost to all non-safety related loads. During this interval, Main Circulating Water Pumps [KE] were among those loads that tripped. With the loss of Main Circulating Water, operators manually closed Main Steam Isolation Valves (MSIVs) [SB]. A plant cooldown to MODE 4 was commenced using Safety Relief Valves (SRVs) [SB] and High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) [BJ], later augmented by Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) [BN]. MODE 4 was achieved on August 15 at 2220 hours.

Reactor water level at the time of the event was being controlled in the normal band (196.5 – 206 inches above top of active fuel (TAF)). Following the Scram, level dropped rapidly due to shrink effects. This initial transient initiated HPCI on Reactor Vessel Water Level — Low Low (Level 2). HPCI did not inject, as level recovered above the initiation setpoint before the injection valve permissive conditions were satisfied. RCIC did not start, due to the rapid nature of the level excursion and recovery transient. Level recovered quickly due to the combined contributions of Reactor Feed Pumps (RFPs) [SK], which responded rapidly to the transient, and transient conditions within the reactor vessel.

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Event Description (continued):

Level control was subsequently maintained with HPCI and RCIC and cooldown conducted using SRVs, HPCI, and RCIC.

All system isolations [BD] and initiations associated with low Reactor Vessel Water Level occurred as expected. These included isolations of Reactor Water Clean-up, Main Steam Line Drains, Primary Coolant Sampling Valves, Primary Containment Hydrogen and Oxygen Sensing lines, and Secondary Containment; and automatic initiation of the Standby Gas Treatment System [BH].

Offsite electrical systems were recovered over a period of time, commencing at 1900 hours on August 14, 2003 with restoration of the 115 kV transmission system with an imposed load limit and ending at 2400 hours on August 14, 2003 with restoration of 115kV transmission system to full capacity. EDGs continued to carry plant safety bus loads until busses were transferred to their normal qualified offsite circuits at 2307 hours (10600 bus) and 2328 hours (10500 bus) respectively. EDGs were shutdown by 2345 hours on August 14, 2003.

The site Emergency Plan was entered at the Unusual Event level (EAL 6.1.1 – loss of off-site power for greater than 15 minutes) at 1626 hours on August 14, 2003. The plant remained in an Unusual Event until exiting at 0039 hours on August 15, 2003.

This event is reportable under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(iv)(a), "Any event or condition that resulted in manual or automatic actuation of any of the systems listed in paragraph (a)(2)(iv)(B) of this section," due to RPS actuation, containment isolation signal actuation involving multiple systems, HPCI and RCIC actuation, and EDG system auto-initiation, including associated Emergency Service Water System initiation.

MODE change with the A EDG subsystem inoperable

At 1015 hours on August 29, 2003, during performance of regularly scheduled surveillance test ST-9BA, "EDG A and C Full Load Test and ESW Pump Operability Test," frequency for the A EDG subsystem stabilized at 61.3 Hz under no-load conditions following auto-start and force paralleling. This is contrary to the required steady state frequency of ≥ 58.8 Hz and ≤ 61.2 Hz required by Technical Specifications (TS) SR 3.8.1.2.b. Surveillance test results were satisfactory with the exception of no-load frequency. These EDGs were last run to supply power during the August 14, 2003 transmission system blackout at which time plant operating procedures were used to set up EDGs for subsequent auto-start as part of the shutdown evolution of the EDGs.

The A EDG subsystem was thus previously set up for auto-start when securing the EDGs, following restoration of the 115 kV transmission system and normal offsite power during recovery from the August 14 transmission system blackout. This set-up during EDG shutdown occurred at approximately 2343 hours on August 14. Evaluation has determined that the cause of the out of tolerance no-load frequency experienced during the August 29 test resulted from setting up the EDGs for auto-start on August 14 based upon adjustment and comparison with a still slightly off-normal transmission system, which was operating at slightly above normal frequency.

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Event Description (continued):

The A EDG subsystem had been declared inoperable for periodic testing at 0755 hours on August 29 and remained inoperable based upon failure to satisfy SR 3.8.1.2.b requirements. As part of ST-9BA, EDG frequency is adjusted and EDGs are paralleled with plant busses for the load testing portion of the surveillance test. At the completion of the test, EDGs are set up for subsequent auto-start in procedural steps analogous to those contained in plant Operating Procedures. The A EDG system was thus set up for auto-start following the performance of ST-9BA, with set-up based upon known, stable transmission system conditions.

At 1053 hours on August 29, ST-9R, "EDG System Quick-Start Operability Test" was performed for the A EDG subsystem, a test which demonstrates compliance with the requirements of SR 3.8.1.2. Test results were satisfactory, demonstrating operability of the A EDG subsystem.

ST-9R was repeated on September 5 to assure that the A EDG subsystem performance had not degraded due to undetermined cause. Test results were satisfactory and consistent with those obtained on August 29. Subsequent surveillance test results have also been satisfactory.

ST-9BB, "EDG B and D Full Load Test and ESW Pump Operability Test" was completed for the B EDG subsystem at 2348 hours on August 29. Test results were satisfactory, confirming that the extent of condition for the subject event was limited to the A EDG subsystem.

The discrepant condition existed from the time the system was set up for auto-start at 2343 hours during shutdown of the EDG subsystem on August 14, 2003. The A EDG subsystem is considered to have been inoperable from that time until satisfactory performance of ST-9R at 1053 hours on August 29. Plant start-up from the August 14 scram occurred during this time period and resulted in a MODE change, which is prohibited by TS LCO 3.0.4, even though the condition was not known at the time. This event is therefore reportable under the provisions of 10CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B), "Any operation or condition which was prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications."

Cause of Event:

Scram due to grid instability, with subsequent loss of offsite power

The event was caused by grid instability associated with the regional transmission system blackout that occurred on August 14, 2003.

MODE change with the A EDG subsystem inoperable

The A EDG subsystem (A and C EDGs) was properly restored in accordance with plant procedures following the grid transient. The system operator was gradually restoring system loads in balance with available generation. Given the abnormal conditions associated with restoration of the grid as compared to normal steady state conditions, the A subsystem EDGs were synchronized to the grid while grid frequency was slightly above normal steady state conditions. This resulted in setting the A EDG subsystem to a slightly higher no-load frequency than normal.

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Cause of Event (continued):

The condition was undetected prior to startup as the EDGs were within their normal surveillance interval, the EDGs had exhibited normal performance during the August 14, 2003 event, the EDGs were properly restored in accordance with plant procedures, and the above normal grid frequency at the time of shutdown was not known or suspected prior to plant startup. The condition was thus not detected until the next regularly scheduled EDG subsystem surveillance testing, performed on August 29, 2003.

The event was compounded by individual subsystem characteristics; the A EDG subsystem tends to run at slightly higher no-load frequency than the B EDG subsystem, as discussed in the Event Analysis section.

Event Analysis:

Scram due to grid instability, with subsequent loss of offsite power

Plant systems responded as designed during the event.

MODE change with the A EDG subsystem inoperable

An engineering evaluation was performed on August 29 to evaluate the discrepant out of tolerance no-load frequency condition. This evaluation assessed that the A EDG subsystem would have been capable of performing its safety function throughout the out of tolerance interval with no loss of safety function.

The cause of the A EDG subsystem inoperability is a higher than normal set-up frequency associated with the August 14 EDG shutdown. This shutdown was atypical in at least two ways.

1. Normally, the 345 kV system, which is operated at an extremely constant frequency, is used as a reference for EDG set-up. In this instance, the 345 kV system had not yet been restored to service. The 115 kV system was used as a reference instead, as allowed by procedure.
2. At the time of setting up the EDGs, the system operator had just given permission for various users, including FitzPatrick, to resume unrestricted 115 kV operations. FitzPatrick and other users were in the process of restoring major loads to the 115 kV system. Under such conditions, it would be reasonable for the system operator to establish system frequency slightly above normal to accommodate the addition of large loads associated with system restoration without causing unacceptable voltage and frequency transients on the system.

It is postulated that the system operator was operating the 115 kV transmission system at a frequency slightly above 60 Hz at the time of setting up the A EDG subsystem. Frequency data on a timeline is not available. However, this cause has been indirectly confirmed by setting up the A EDG subsystem under known, stable 60 Hz conditions and subsequently testing the EDG subsystem under fast start conditions. The A EDG subsystem has since demonstrated consistent satisfactory performance under those conditions.

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Event Analysis (continued):

The effects of EDGs running at above normal frequency were evaluated. Two areas of concern were addressed.

1. At above normal frequency, EDGs will carry increased load for the same connected plant components. Evaluation determined that the increased load associated with the out of tolerance frequency was well within rated capacity for the EDG subsystem.
2. A higher initial frequency reduces the margin to overfrequency trip associated with rapid load rejection, such as a large motor trip. Evaluation determined that the EDG subsystem could accommodate a trip of the largest connected load under these conditions, with ample margin.

In summary, the elevated frequency did not compromise the ability of the A EDG subsystem to perform its safety function(s).

A contributing factor was noted in reviewing past EDG performance in conjunction with this evaluation. System characteristics are such that, under no-load conditions, the A EDG subsystem typically runs at a slightly higher frequency than the B EDG subsystem due to governor action. As a corrective action to this LER, the A EDG subsystem governor(s) will be tuned (adjusted) during Refueling Outage 16 so that the A EDG subsystem controls more closely to the midpoint of the allowable frequency band.

Extent of Condition:

Scram due to grid instability, with subsequent loss of offsite power

N/A

MODE change with the A EDG subsystem inoperable

The condition was limited to the A EDG subsystem. The B EDG subsystem remained operable throughout the period, except during testing. The B EDG subsystem governor tuning is such that the subsystem controls more closely to the midpoint of the allowable frequency band under no-load conditions, making the B EDG subsystem less susceptible to the effects of off-normal grid frequency than the A EDG subsystem.

Corrective Actions:

Scram due to grid instability, with subsequent loss of offsite power

None

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Corrective Actions (continued):

MODE change with the A EDG subsystem inoperable

1. Revise Operating and Surveillance Test Procedures to include provisions for setting up EDGs for auto start, strengthening frequency set up verification and addressing potential off-normal transmission system conditions.

(Scheduled Completion Date: December 15, 2003)

2. Perform tuning of the A and C EDG governor control system (WR-02-07393-00, WR-02-07394-00.)

(Scheduled Completion Date: Refueling Outage 16)

Safety System Functional Failure Review

None

Similar Events

None

Failed Component Identification

None