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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**SPECIAL REPORT 354/04-012-00
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-57
DOCKET NO. 50-354**

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of Hope Creek Technical Specification (TS) 3.8.1.1 Action h. TS 3.8.1.1 Action h states:

“With the buried fuel oil transfer piping’s cathodic protection system inoperable for more than 30 days, prepare and submit a Special Report to the Commission pursuant to Specification 6.9.2 within the next 10 days outlining the cause of the malfunction and the plans for restoring to OPERABLE status.”

There are two cathodic protection rectifiers associated with the Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) buried fuel oil transfer piping, 00-SC505 and 00-SC509. On October 11, 2004, at 1305 hours, rectifier 00-SC509 was found de-energized. Rectifier 00-SC509 is supplied power from electrical panel 00B509. Investigation of the loss of power to rectifier 00-SC509 identified that feeder breaker 52-50034 that feeds panel 00B509 was tripped due to a ground fault. The ground fault occurred following a fire in the Hope Creek Substation 4 transformer and the associated 480 V motor control center. Hope Creek Substation 4 is part of the non-power block ring bus that feeds loads such as the administration buildings, sewage treatment plant, etc.

In addition to rectifier 00-SC509 losing power, power to rectifier 00-SC505 was tagged on October 29, 2004, as part of a scheduled service water loop outage to allow for underground pipe testing. Power was restored to rectifier 00-SC505, on November 10, 2004, at 2300 hours with the release of the associated tags.

Also, on November 10, 2004, power was restored to rectifier 00-SC509 by a temporary diesel generator until repairs are completed to restore the permanent power feed to breaker 52-50034. The use of the temporary diesel generator to power rectifier 00-SC509 essentially restores the cathodic protection for the buried fuel oil piping to a fully

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functional status; however, the system is not considered OPERABLE since the temporary diesel generator must be stopped once a day for approximately 1 hour to refuel.

Repair of the permanent power feed to breaker 52-50034 is currently scheduled to be completed the work week of November 29, 2004.

Sincerely,



James Hutton
Plant Manager – Hope Creek

BJT

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