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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of Entergy (Plymouth Nuclear Power Station)

Docket No. 50-293-LR Official Exhibit No. 43

OFFERED by: Applicant/Licensee Intervenor
NRC Staff Other NRC Staff Exh. 5

IDENTIFIED on 4-10-08 Witness/Panel

Action Taken: ADMITTED REJECTED WITHDRAWN

Reported/Clk Thibault

XI.M20 OPEN-CYCLE COOLING WATER SYSTEM

Program Description

The program relies on implementation of the recommendations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Generic Letter (GL) 89-13 to ensure that the effects of aging on the open-cycle cooling water (OCCW) (or service water) system will be managed for the extended period of operation. The program includes surveillance and control techniques to manage aging effects caused by biofouling, corrosion, erosion, protective coating failures, and silting in the OCCW system or structures and components serviced by the OCCW system.

Evaluation and Technical Basis

1. **Scope of Program:** The program addresses the aging effects of material loss and fouling due to micro- or macro-organisms and various corrosion mechanisms. Because the characteristics of the service water system may be specific to each facility, the OCCW system is defined as a system or systems that transfer heat from safety-related systems, structures, and components (SSC) to the ultimate heat sink (UHS). If an intermediate system is used between the safety-related SSCs and the system rejecting heat to the UHS, that intermediate system performs the function of a service water system and is thus included in the scope of recommendations of NRC GL 89-13. The guidelines of NRC GL 89-13 include (a) surveillance and control of biofouling; (b) a test program to verify heat transfer capabilities; (c) routine inspection and a maintenance program to ensure that corrosion, erosion, protective coating failure, silting, and biofouling cannot degrade the performance of safety-related systems serviced by OCCW; (d) a system walk down inspection to ensure compliance with the licensing basis; and (e) a review of maintenance, operating, and training practices and procedures.
2. **Preventive Actions:** The system components are constructed of appropriate materials and lined or coated to protect the underlying metal surfaces from being exposed to aggressive cooling water environments. Implementation of NRC GL 89-13 includes a condition and performance monitoring program; control or preventive measures, such as chemical treatment, whenever the potential for biological fouling species exists; or flushing of infrequently used systems. Treatment with chemicals mitigates microbiologically-influenced corrosion (MIC) and buildup of macroscopic biological fouling species, such as blue mussels, oysters, or clams. Periodic flushing of the system removes accumulations of biofouling agents, corrosion products, and silt.
3. **Parameters Monitored/Inspected:** Adverse effects on system or component performance are caused by accumulations of biofouling agents, corrosion products, and silt. Cleanliness and material integrity of piping, components, heat exchangers, elastomers, and their internal linings or coatings (when applicable) that are part of the OCCW system or that are cooled by the OCCW system are periodically inspected, monitored, or tested to ensure heat transfer capabilities. The program ensures (a) removal of accumulations of biofouling agents, corrosion products, and silt, and (b) detection of defective protective coatings and corroded OCCW system piping and components that could adversely affect performance of their intended safety functions.
4. **Detection of Aging Effects:** Inspections for biofouling, damaged coatings, and degraded material condition are conducted. Visual inspections are typically performed; however, nondestructive testing, such as ultrasonic testing, eddy current testing, and heat transfer

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capability testing, are effective methods to measure surface condition and the extent of wall thinning associated with the service water system piping and components, when determined necessary.

5. **Monitoring and Trending:** Inspection scope, method (e.g., visual or nondestructive examination [NDE]), and testing frequencies are in accordance with the utility commitments under NRC GL 89-13. Testing and inspections are done annually and during refueling outages. Inspections or nondestructive testing will determine the extent of biofouling, the condition of the surface coating, the magnitude of localized pitting, and the amount of MIC, if applicable. Heat transfer testing results are documented in plant test procedures and are trended and reviewed by the appropriate group.
6. **Acceptance Criteria:** Biofouling is removed or reduced as part of the surveillance and control process. The program for managing biofouling and aggressive cooling water environments for OCCW systems is preventive. Acceptance criteria are based on effective cleaning of biological fouling organisms and maintenance of protective coatings or linings are emphasized.
7. **Corrective Actions:** Evaluations are performed for test or inspection results that do not satisfy established acceptance criteria and a problem or condition report is initiated to document the concern in accordance with plant administrative procedures. The corrective actions program ensures that the conditions adverse to quality are promptly corrected. If the deficiency is assessed to be significantly adverse to quality, the cause of the condition is determined, and an action plan is developed to preclude repetition. As discussed in the appendix to this report, the staff finds the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, acceptable to address the corrective actions.
8. **Confirmation Process:** Site quality assurance (QA) procedures, review and approval processes, and administrative controls are implemented in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B. As discussed in the appendix to this report, the staff finds the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, acceptable to address the confirmation process and administrative controls.
9. **Administrative Controls:** See Item 8, above.
10. **Operating Experience:** Significant microbiologically-influenced corrosion (NRC Information Notice [IN] 85-30), failure of protective coatings (NRC IN 85-24), and fouling (NRC IN 81-21, IN 86-96) have been observed in a number of heat exchangers. The guidance of NRC GL 89-13 has been implemented for approximately 10 years and has been effective in managing aging effects due to biofouling, corrosion, erosion, protective coating failures, and silting in structures and components serviced by OCCW systems.

References

10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, *Quality Assurance Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants*, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, 2005.

NRC Generic Letter 89-13, *Service Water System Problems Affecting Safety-Related Components*, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, July 18, 1989.