

Indian Point 3
Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 215
Buchanan, New York 10511
914 739.8200



August 13, 1991
IP3-91-046

Docket No. 50-286
License No. DPR-64

Document Control Desk
Mail Station PI-137
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

The attached Licensee Event Report LER 91-009-00 is hereby submitted in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.73. This event is of the type defined in the requirements per 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Russell', written over the typed name.

Joseph Russell
Resident Manager
Indian Point Three Nuclear Power Plant

ED/rj
Attachment

cc: Mr. Thomas T. Martin
Regional Administrator
Region 1
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

INPO Records Center
Suite 1500
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Atlanta, Georgia 30339

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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1) Indian Point Unit 3	DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 2 8 6	PAGE (3) 1 OF 0 3
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TITLE (4)
INADVERTENTLY MISSED BACKUP SAMPLE FOR INOPERABLE RADIATION MONITOR

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)		
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAMES		DOCKET NUMBER(S)
0	7	11	9	1	0	0	8	11			0 5 0 0 0

OPERATING MODE (9) N	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more of the following) (11)									
POWER LEVEL (10) 1 0 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.402(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.406(c)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> 73.71(b)						
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.406(a)(1)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.38(e)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)	<input type="checkbox"/> 73.71(c)						
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.406(a)(1)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.38(e)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(vii)	OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 365A)						
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.406(a)(1)(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)							
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.406(a)(1)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)							
<input type="checkbox"/> 20.406(a)(1)(v)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(x)								

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)	
NAME Edward Diamond, Senior Plant Engineer	TELEPHONE NUMBER AREA CODE: 9 1 4 7 3 1 6 8 1 0 4 5

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)											
CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS		
A	L	R	I	T 2 6 0 Y							

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

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

On July 11, 1991, with the reactor at 100 percent power, a backup sample of condenser air ejector noble gas activity required while the associated radiation monitor was inoperable was missed. The required sampling frequency of twelve hours was exceeded. The root cause of the event was that the watch chemist was involved in multiple tasks on an unusually busy watch and inadvertently missed this sample. Supervision counseled the chemist. The Chemistry Department is implementing a backup sample status sheet. The condenser air ejector radiation monitor was restored to operable status on July 16, 1991.

FACILITY NAME (1) Indian Point Unit 3	DOCKET NUMBER (2) 05000286	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)	
		YEAR 91	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER -009	REVISION NUMBER -00	02	OF 03

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

On July 11, 1991, with the plant operating at 100 percent power, the watch chemist on the 1500-2300 hours shift missed the required backup sample for the out of service condenser air ejector noble gas activity monitor (Tracer Lab Model No. MQ-180) (T260) (IL) (RI).

INVESTIGATION OF THE EVENT

On July 6, 1991 at 2245 hours, the condenser air ejector noble gas activity monitor, R-15, failed low. The R-15 detector is an in-line scintillation detector installed in the condenser air ejector discharge stack. Technical Specification Appendix B 2.2.B. requires that either R-15 be operable during condenser air ejector discharge or, if it is declared inoperable, the condenser air ejector effluent must be sampled at least once every twelve hours.

Since the condenser air ejectors were continuously discharging, the Chemistry Department was taking the required samples. For consistency, the sampling was done once per eight hour shift.

The watch chemist on the 1500-2300 hours shift on July 11, 1991 became involved in solving a chemistry-related problem in another area of the plant, and he overlooked taking the required air ejector effluent sample. Other Chemistry Department personnel had been available on shift to whom he could have delegated this responsibility.

When the watch chemist on the 2300-0700 hours shift of July 12, 1991 logged his condenser air ejector sample results, he noticed that the previous day's 1500-2300 hours shift sample results were missing. He notified Chemistry Department management during watch turnover at 0700 hours. Since the previous logged sample was taken at 1100 hours on July 11, 1991 and the current sample was taken at 0435 hours on July 12, 1991, about seventeen and one-half hours had elapsed between samples.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

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		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

CAUSE OF THE EVENT

The cause of the event was the overlooking of the air ejector effluent sample that occurred on July 11, 1991 by the watch chemist on the 1500-2300 hour shift. The root cause of the event was that the watch chemist had been involved in multiple tasks and had overlooked the requirement to take this sample.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Chemistry Department supervision counseled the watch chemist on the importance of taking required samples at the required frequency. The Chemistry Department is also implementing a backup sample status sheet in the chemistry watch office. The watch chemists will use the backup sample status sheet to verify that required samples for out of service equipment have been done.

ANALYSIS OF THE EVENT

This event is reportable under 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) because the plant was in a condition prohibited by Technical Specifications. Table 2.2-1 of Technical Specifications, Appendix B requires that if the condenser air ejector noble gas activity monitor is inoperable, the condenser air ejector effluent must be sampled at least once every twelve hours. At 2301 hours on July 11, 1991 Indian Point Three departed from this requirement.

The significance of this event is mitigated by the fact that the gross activity of condenser air ejector effluent samples taken at 1100 hours on July 11, 1991 and 0430 hours on July 12, 1991 indicated no activity. Furthermore, the steam generator blowdown liquid effluent monitor (R-19) was continuously monitoring the steam generator liquid effluent for radioactivity throughout the event and was capable of detecting a primary-to-secondary leak.

A similar event was reported in LER 28690-009.

SECURING FROM THE EVENT

The condenser air ejector radiation monitor was restored to operable status at 2145 hours on July 16, 1991.