

ATTACHMENT 1

Docket No. 50-286
LER 79-006/01T0

Power Authority of the
State of New York

The plant was operating at 100 percent power in the steady state.

On June 21, 1979, the Power Authority was notified by our Nuclear Steam Supplier, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, of an error in the less conservative direction in their analysis of high energy line breaks inside containment. Breaks of this type can result in heatup of the steam generator level measurement reference leg, resulting in a decrease of the water column density with a consequent apparent increase in the indicated steam generator water level (i.e., apparent level exceeding actual level). This potential level bias could result in delayed protection signals (reactor trip and auxiliary feedwater initiation) which are based on low-low steam generator water level. In the case of a feedline rupture, this adverse environment could be present and could delay or prevent the primary signal arising from declining steam generator water level (Low-low steam generator level). Containment pressure and safety injection provides a backup signal which initiates a trip before a high containment temperature setpoint is reached. This trip is conservatively set at 3.0 psig.

Westinghouse has provided a table indicating the required percentage increase in span of steam generator low-low level setpoint as a function of temperature to offset this error. The Power Authority presently uses a level value ten per cent higher than that indicated by Technical Specifications, which corresponds to a maximum permissible temperature of 280° F. according to Westinghouse. Since containment temperature is estimated to be less than this in the event of a break, this suggested setpoint change is already in effect.

Further evaluation will be conducted to determine final setpoint adjustments.

For other high energy line breaks which could introduce a similar positive bias to the steam generator water level measurement, steam generator level does not provide the primary trip function and the potential bias would not interfere with needed protective system actuation.

The effects of the temperature increase on other level instrumentation in containment for post accident monitoring is being reviewed and appropriate guidance will be given to the operators.

Plant operation was not affected by this incident. No similar events have been recorded to date.