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ACCESSION NBR: 8907070292      DOC. DATE: 89/06/30      NOTARIZED: NO      DOCKET #  
 FACIL: 50-387 Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 1, Pennsylvania      05000387  
 AUTH. NAME      AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
 WEHR, R.R.      Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.  
 BYRAM, R.G.      Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.  
 RECIP. NAME      RECIPIENT AFFILIATION

SUBJECT: LER 89-004-00: on 890531, discovered containment drywell & noble gas gross activity performed w/o isotopic analysis.  
W/8      ltr.

DISTRIBUTION CODE: IE22T      COPIES RECEIVED: LTR 1 ENCL 1 SIZE: 4  
 TITLE: 50.73/50.9 Licensee Event Report (LER), Incident Rpt, etc.

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EXTERNAL:	EG&G WILLIAMS, S	4		4	FORD BLDG HOY, A	1		1
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June 30, 1989

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 89-004-00  
FILE R41-2  
PLAS - 376

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Docket No. 50-387 License No. NPF-14

Attached is Licensee Event Report 89-004-00. This event was determined reportable per 10CFR50.73 (a)(2)(i)(B) in that prior to purging the containment drywell on May 31, 1989 during the Unit 1 fourth refueling outage, a noble gas gross activity analysis in lieu of a full isotopic activity analysis was performed.

R.G. Byram  
Superintendent of Plant - Susquehanna

RRW/mjm

cc: Mr. W.T. Russell  
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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1) <b>Susquehanna Steam Electric Station - Unit 1</b>	DOCKET NUMBER (2) <b>0 5 0 0 0 3 8 7</b>	PAGE (3) <b>1 OF 0 3</b>
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TITLE (4)  
**Tech Spec Required Chemistry Analysis Not Performed Prior to Purging Drywell**

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)																																																																															
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LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)											
NAME <b>R.R. Wehry, Power Production Engineer - Compliance</b>								TELEPHONE NUMBER AREA CODE <b>7 1 7 5 4 2 - 3 6 6 4</b>			

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	

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 May 31, 1989, with Unit 1 in Condition 4, while preparing to purge the suppression chamber, it was discovered that a purge of the containment drywell had been performed earlier the same day and that only a noble gas gross activity analysis had been performed. Technical Specification 4.11.2.1.2 requires that a full isotopic activity analysis be performed prior to purging the containment. The unit was in its fourth refueling outage at the time. The incident was caused by miscommunications between Operations and Chemistry personnel. Training is being conducted for both Operations and Chemistry personnel to stress the importance of clear and concise communications for required activities. The administrative procedure is being enhanced to further strengthen the process of ensuring that proper sampling/analysis per Tech Spec section 4.11.2.1.2 is met prior to purging the containment. Additional evaluation with respect to Tech Spec 3.11.2 and the procedures which control sampling evolutions is being performed by the Chemistry Section.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)		
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
Unit 1 Susquehanna Steam Electric Station	0 5 0 0 0 3 8 7	8 9	- 0 0 4	- 0 0	0 2	OF	0 3

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

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

On May 31, 1989, with Unit 1 in Condition 4, while preparing to purge the suppression chamber (EIIS Code: NH), it was discovered that a purge of the containment drywell (EIIS Code: NH) had been performed earlier the same day and that only a noble gas gross activity sample had been performed. Technical Specification 4.11.2.1.2 requires that a full isotopic activity analysis be performed prior to purging the containment. The unit was in its fourth refueling outage, having just completed a containment integrated leak rate test and a drywell to suppression chamber bypass leakage test.

CAUSE OF EVENT

Tech Spec 4.11.2.1.2 requires full isotopic activity analysis of the containment atmosphere prior to purging. PP&L has taken the extra precaution to take a noble gas gross activity analysis of containment atmosphere prior to containment venting. The incident was caused by miscommunications between Operations and Chemistry personnel concerning whether a containment venting evolution was planned or a full purge. A containment chemistry sample had been taken at 0120 hours on May 31, 1989 to allow venting of containment following completion of drywell to suppression chamber bypass leakage testing. The sample for venting, however, is only analyzed for gross noble gas activity and is not a full isotopic activity analysis as required by the Technical Specifications for purging. Prior to purging on May 31, 1989, Operations personnel (utility, licensed) called Chemistry personnel (utility, non-licensed) and asked if a containment sample had been taken. Chemistry personnel responded that a sample had been taken (the sample for venting of containment). Neither the operator nor the chemistry technician explained or questioned what the sample was required for, i.e., containment drywell purging. The result of proper communications was demonstrated later the same day when Operations requested containment activity analysis prior to purging the suppression chamber. It was at that time that the operator and chemistry technician became aware that purging of the drywell had been performed earlier with only a noble gas gross activity analysis having been completed, in lieu of a full isotopic activity analysis.

REPORTABILITY/ANALYSIS

This event was determined reportable per 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) in that prior to purging the containment drywell on May 31, 1989, during the Unit 1 fourth refueling outage, a noble gas gross activity analysis in lieu of a full isotopic activity analysis, as required by Technical Specification 4.11.2.1.2 was performed. This represented a condition prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications. The purging of the drywell was being performed

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)  Unit 1 Susquehanna Steam Electric Station	DOCKET NUMBER (2)  0   5   0   0   0   3   8   7	LER NUMBER (8)			PAGE (3)	
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER		
		8   9	-   0   0   4	-   0   0	0   3	OF 0   3

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

following the completion of containment integrated leak rate testing and drywell to suppression chamber bypass leakage testing, which pressurize the containment with air, during the Unit 1 fourth refueling outage. The sample which had been taken and analyzed for gross noble gas activity earlier in the day was determined to be within the limits of Tech Specs and in accordance with the methodology and parameters of the ODCM. The release path for purging is via the Standby Gas Treatment (EIIS Code: BH) system vent which is monitored by radioactive gaseous effluent monitoring instrumentation. There were no safety consequences or compromise to public health or safety as a result of this event.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Training is being conducted for both Operations and Chemistry personnel to stress the importance of clear and concise communications for required activities. Enhancements are being made to the administrative procedure for primary containment access and control to further strengthen the process of ensuring that proper sampling/analysis per Technical Specification section 4.11.2.1.2 is met prior to purging containment. Additional evaluation with respect to Tech. Spec. 3.11.2 and the procedures which control sampling evolutions is being performed by the Chemistry Section.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Failed Component Identification: Not applicable

Previous Similar Events: Licensee Event Reports 84-042-00 and 85-033-00 Described similar events involving failure to implement Chemistry Tech Spec required sampling.