

# CATEGORY

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ACCESSION NBR: 9610250102      DOC.DATE: 96/10/18      NOTARIZED: NO      DOCKET #  
 FACIL: 50-387 Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 1, Pennsylv      05000387  
 AUTH.NAME      AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
 WILLIAMS, W.W.      Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.  
 KUCZYNSKI, G.J.      Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.  
 RECIP.NAME      RECIPIENT AFFILIATION

SUBJECT: LER 96-012-00: on 960915, failed to establish continuous firewatch when fire detector string removed from service. Caused by lack of adequate training. Established firewatch & implemented new deficiency mgt process. W/961018 ltr.

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

NOTES:

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**Pennsylvania Power & Light Company**

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October 18, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
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**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION**  
**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 50-387/96-012-00**  
**PLAS - 685                      FILE R41-2**

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

Attached is Licensee Event Report 96-012-00. This report is being made pursuant to 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) as a condition prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications in that a continuous firewatch was not established when a fire detection string was removed from service with a fire barrier inoperable in the same fire zone.

G. J. Kuczynski  
Plant Manager - Susquehanna SES

Attachment

cc: Mr. H. J. Miller  
Regional Administrator  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Mr. Kenneth M. Jenison  
Sr. Resident Inspector  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P. O. Box 35  
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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P-530), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

FACILITY NAME (1)  
Susquehanna Steam Electric Station - Unit 1

DOCKET NUMBER(2) PAGE (3)  
0 5 0 0 0 3 8 7 1 OF 0 3

TITLE (4)  
Firewatch Not Established When Fire Detector String Removed From Service

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	9	1	5	9	6	9	6	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	8	9	6	0	5	0	0	0

OPERATING MODE (9)	5	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR T : (Check one or more of the following) (11)										
POWER LEVEL (10)	0	0	0	20.402(b)	20.405(c)	50.73(a)(2)(v)	73.71(b)	OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)				
				20.405(a)(1)(i)	50.36(c)(1)	50.73(a)(2)(v)	73.71(c)					
				20.405(a)(1)(ii)	50.36(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(w)						
				20.405(a)(1)(iii)	X 50.73(a)(2)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(w)(A)						
				20.405(a)(1)(iv)	50.73(a)(2)(i)	50.73(1)(2)(w)(B)						
				20.405(a)(1)(v)	50.73(a)(2)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(x)						

(LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12))  
NAME: William W. Williams - Project Licensing Specialist  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 610 774-7742

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)  
 YES (if yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)  NO  
 EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15) MONTH DAY YEAR

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

At 0630 hours on September 15, 1996, with Unit 1 in Condition 5 (Refueling) at 0% power, Simplex Fire Detection Zone 89 (Alarm Point 113-104) was removed from service. This impairment removed all detection from service in Fire Zones 1-4G, 1-5B, and 1-5C. Concurrently, Thermo-Lag Raceway Fire Barriers were inoperable in Fire Zone 1-5B. The Thermo-Lag Raceway Fire Barrier impairment had established an hourly firewatch with operable fire detection in the area (Alarm 113-104). With Alarm Point 113-104 removed from service and thus inoperable, a continuous firewatch was required in Fire Zone 1-5B in accordance with Technical Specification 3.7.7. No continuous firewatch was established until September 18, 1996. The condition was caused by a lack of adequate training and awareness on the part of the Unit Supervisor, which resulted in his failure to recognize the requirement for operable fire detection in Fire Zone 1-5B. This event was determined to be reportable on September 18, 1996 at 1145 hours, per 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) as a condition prohibited by Technical Specifications. There were no safety consequences. Had a fire occurred in Fire Zone 1-5B with both fire detection and the Thermo-Lag fire barriers out of service, it is unlikely that the fire would have progressed enough to have caused significant damage, due to the limited exposed combustible loading in the zone and the coverage by an hourly firewatch. Therefore, there were no consequences or compromises to public health and safety as a result of this event. Non-routine training will be provided to operations supervisors to prevent occurrence of a similar event. Training will be provided during requalification to Operations Unit Supervisors in utilizing the currently existing system status file search function and Technical Specifications used to identify requirements common to Technical Specifications 3.7.7 and 3.3.7.9 (fire barriers and fire detection). Additionally, a computerized Fire Protection Impairment Tracking System is being developed. Until the computerized system is in place, additional reviews of fire forms will be performed by scheduling personnel as part of the work release process.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)  
TEXT CONTINUATION**

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P-530), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

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

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

**DESCRIPTION OF EVENT**

At 0630 hours September 15, 1996, with Unit 1 in Condition 5 (Refueling) at 0% power, Simplex Fire Detection Zone 89 (Alarm Point 113-104; EILS Code: IC) was removed from service. This impairment removed all detection service in Fire Zones 1-4G, 1-5B and 1-5C. Concurrently, Thermo-Lag Raceway Fire Barrier impairment in Fire Zone 1-5B had established an hourly firewatch with operable fire detection in the area (Alarm 113-104). With Alarm Point 113-104 removed from service and thus inoperable, a continuous firewatch was required to be established in Fire Zone 1-5B within one hour in accordance with Technical Specification 3.7.7. A continuous firewatch was not established as required until September 18, 1996 at 1145 hours.

**CAUSE OF EVENT**

The root causes of this condition were:

- Incomplete implementation of improvements in our process for tracking fire protection impairments. Changes were made to enhance this process, but adequate training was not provided to Operations Unit Supervisors on the use of the plant's computerized system status file search function by fire zone. This resulted in a Unit Supervisor's failure to recognize the requirement for operable fire detection in Fire Zone 1-5B.

**REPORTABILITY / ANALYSIS**

This event was determined to be reportable per 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) as a condition prohibited by Technical Specification in that the Limiting Condition for Operation action statement was not entered for inoperable fire detection in combination with an inoperable fire barrier. This event had no safety consequences. Had a fire occurred in Fire Zone 1-5B with both fire detection and the Thermo-Lag fire barriers out of service, it is unlikely that the fire would have progressed enough to have caused significant damage due to the limited exposed combustible loading in the zone and the coverage by an hourly firewatch. There were no consequences or compromises to public health and safety as a result of this event.

In accordance with guidance provided in NUREG 1022, Supplement 1, item 14.1, the required submission date for this report was determined to be October 18, 1996.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)  
TEXT CONTINUATION**

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

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

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

The following corrective actions were identified and are completed:

- Upon discovery of this condition, the required continuous firewatch was established.
- A new deficiency management process was put in place subsequent to our failure to fully implement improvements in our process for tracking fire protection impairments. The new deficiency management process would have prevented this failure in that it provides a more effective commitment tracking mechanism.

Actions to prevent recurrence include:

- Non-routine training will be provided to operations supervisors to prevent occurrence of a similar event.
- Training will be provided during requalification to Operations Unit Supervisors on the use of the plant's computerized system status file search function by fire zone, as well as the Technical Specification required tie between Technical Specifications 3.7.7 and 3.3.7.9 (fire barriers and fire detection).
- A computerized Fire Protection Impairment Tracking System capable of identifying attributes and interdependences for fire protection impairments is being developed.
- Until the computerized system is in place, additional reviews of fire forms will be performed by scheduling personnel as part of the work release process.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Previous Similar Reported Event:   None

Failed Component Information:       Not Applicable