

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS MANDATORY INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. REPORTED LESSONS LEARNED ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE LICENSING PROCESS AND FED BACK TO INDUSTRY. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (T-6 F33), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

FACILITY NAME (1)
Susquehanna Steam Electric Station - Unit 2

DOCKET NUMBER (2)
05000388

PAGE (3)
1 OF 3

TITLE (4)
Flow Rate Estimates Not Performed Within Technical Specification ACTION Statement Time Limit

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 NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
4	4	98	98	004	00	5	4	98	FACILITY NAME	05000
									FACILITY NAME	05000

OPERATING MODE (9)	POWER LEVEL (10)	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11)								
1	025	20.2201(b)	20.2203(a)(2)(v)	X	50.73(a)(2)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)				
		20.2203(a)(1)	20.2203(a)(3)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(x)				
		20.2203(a)(2)(i)	20.2203(a)(3)(ii)		50.73(a)(2)(iii)	73.71				
		20.2203(a)(2)(ii)	20.2203(a)(4)		50.73(a)(2)(iv)	OTHER				
		20.2203(a)(2)(iii)	50.36(c)(1)		50.73(a)(2)(v)	Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A				
		20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	50.36(c)(2)		50.73(a)(2)(vii)					

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)
NAME: Cornelius T. Coddington - Senior Engineer, Licensing
TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code): 717 / 542-3294

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) [X] NO
EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines) (16)
On April 4, 1998, with Unit 2 in Condition 1 (Power Operation) at 25% power, sample and vent flow rate estimates were not completed within the time limit of the Technical Specification ACTION Statement. These flow estimates were required because the Unit 2 Reactor Building Ventilation Monitoring System flow rate monitor channels were inoperable. The flow rate estimates were performed 30 minutes beyond the 4 hour Technical Specification ACTION Statement time limit. The cause of the event was determined to be inadequate attention to detail by the technician designated to perform the flow rate estimates. This event was determined to be reportable in accordance with 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) in that the flow rate estimates were not completed within the time limits of the Technical Specification ACTION Statement. The completed corrective actions are: 1) The Reactor Building Ventilation Monitoring System was returned to normal operation and the Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) was cleared and 2) the technician was coached and counseled on the importance of LCO sampling and managing time. Additional actions being considered are: 1) evaluating the use of timers to assist in tracking sample times, and 2) evaluating shift coverage policy. There were no safety consequences or compromises to public health or safety since the indications of flow, when the estimates were made, did not show any deviation from what was expected had the flow estimates been completed within the time limits.

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TEXT CONTINUATION

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Susquehanna Steam Electric Station - Unit 2	05000				
	388	98	004	00	2 OF 3

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

EVENT DESCRIPTION

On April 4, 1998, with Unit 2 in Condition 1 (Power Operation) at 25% power, sample and vent flow rate estimates were not completed within the time limit of the Technical Specification ACTION Statement. These flow estimates were required because the Unit 2 Reactor Building Ventilation Monitoring System flow rate monitor channels (EIS Code: IL) were inoperable. In accordance with Technical Specification 3.3.7.11, ACTION 113, with less than the minimum required number of flow rate monitor channels operable, effluent releases via this pathway may continue for up to 30 days provided that, at least once per 4 hours the flow rates are estimated. The flow rate estimates were required to be performed by 0100 but were not completed until 0130, 30 minutes beyond the 4 hour Technical Specification ACTION Statement time limit.

CAUSE OF EVENT

The root cause of the event was determined to be inadequate attention to detail by the technician (utility; non-licensed) designated to perform the flow rate estimates. The investigation determined that the technician was aware of the Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) ACTION statement requirement and had successfully performed the flow rate estimates once earlier in the shift. However, as a result of other job-related distractions, the technician did not perform the flow rate estimate until 30 minutes after the required time. Two causal factors were identified: 1) alarming count-down timers are not used as a tool to help ensure time requirements are met and 2) the technician was working first night of night shift after a short rest period in response to call-out.

REPORTABILITY/ANALYSIS

On April 4, 1998, sample and vent flow rate estimates were not completed within the time limit of the Technical Specification ACTION Statement. These flow estimates were required because the Unit 2 Reactor Building Ventilation Monitoring System flow rate monitor channels were inoperable. In accordance with Technical Specification 3.3.7.11, ACTION 113, with less than the minimum required number of flow rate monitor channels operable, effluent releases via this pathway may continue for up to 30 days provided that, at least once per 4 hours the flow rates are estimated. The flow rate estimates were required to be performed by 0100 but were not completed until 0130, 30 minutes beyond the 4 hour Technical Specification ACTION Statement time limit. This event was determined to be reportable in accordance with 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) in that the flow rate estimates were not completed within the time limits of the LCO ACTION Statement.

The vent flow was recorded by the Vent Monitoring System and showed no deviation. The sample flow was assumed to be the calibrated flow as long as the alternate sample pump is running. When checked at 0130 hours, the pump was running. There were no safety consequences or compromises to public health or safety since the indications of flow, when the estimates were made, did not show any deviation from what was expected had the flow estimates been completed within the time limits.

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

In accordance with the guidelines provided in NUREG-1022, Revision 1, Section 5.1.1, the required submission date for this report was determined to be May 4, 1998.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The following corrective actions were identified and completed:

- The required flow estimates were performed.
- The Reactor Building Ventilation Monitoring System was returned to normal operation and the LCO was cleared.
- The technician was coached and counseled on the importance of LCO sampling and managing time.

The following additional corrective actions were identified and are being considered:

- The use of repetitive performance count-down timers to assist in tracking sample times will be evaluated.
- Shift coverage by Chemistry Technicians when call out is required on short notice will be evaluated.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Past Similar Events: Docket No. 50-387 LER 89-017-00
LER 90-031-00
LER 96-018-00

Docket No. 50-388 LER 97-003-00

Failed Component: None



11-11-11