



February 22, 1979

PRN-LI-79-44

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director, Region II
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE 335-79-1
ST. LUCIE UNIT 1
DATE OF OCCURRENCE: JANUARY 23, 1979

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3.1.3.1
CEDM #43

The attached Licensee Event Report is being submitted in accordance with Technical Specification 6.9 to provide 30-day notification of the subject occurrence.

Very truly yours,

A. D. Schmidt
Vice President
Power Resources

RECEIVED NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

MAS/cpc

Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement (30)
Director, Office of Management Information and Program Control (3)
Harold F. Reis, Esquire
File 933.1SL

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Additional Event Description and Probable Consequences

When the reactor was tripped as part of the shutdown procedure, the two CEA's acted on by CEDM #43 stopped during their fall into the core at the 8 inch withdrawn position. Attempts to move these CEA's were unsuccessful, and the CEA's were declared INOPERABLE. While investigating the cause, several attempts to move the CEA's were also unsuccessful. Following vendor recommendations, CEDM #43 motor housing was removed and inspected. The motor housing inspection results indicated that it was not the cause of the occurrence. While the CEDM motor housing was removed, a manual lifting device was attached to the CEDM drive shaft. By applying an upward force (equal to approximately 15% more than what the CEDM lifting device normally applies) and using physical agitation to the lifting device the CEA's were freed and exercised. The CEDM motor housing was replaced and the CEA's and CEDM were operationally tested satisfactorily. CEA drop time testing was performed as required by T.S. 4.1.3.4b. Also, drop time testing was performed under cold conditions. All drop times were well within limits with no significant differences when compared to previous test results. The CEA's were declared OPERABLE after about 79 hours.

There were no adverse consequences due to this occurrence. Throughout the period in which these CEA's were inoperable, adequate shutdown margin was maintained. Virtually no additional reactivity in the core was produced due to these CEA's being 8 inches withdrawn. Boron concentration in the RCS was maintained sufficiently high enough to provide adequate shutdown margin even if these CEA's and the next highest reactivity worth dual-CEA's were fully withdrawn simultaneously.

Also, CEA #61 dropped while inserting rods during this same reactor shutdown. Appropriate ACTION was taken. No cause for this drop could be determined.

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