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 AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 SAGER, D.A. Florida Power & Light Co.
 RECIPIENT NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
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SUBJECT: Special rept: on 910320, 1B emergency diesel generator
 non-valid during surveillance testing. Sys protection tested
 relay electricly & found operable & plans available to
 replace engineering dedication. W/910417 ltr.

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April 17, 1991

L-91-122
10CFR50.36

U. S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

Re: St. Lucie Unit 1
Docket No. 50-335
Special Report
Date of Event: March 20, 1991
Emergency Diesel Generator Failure

The attached Special Report is being transmitted pursuant to the requirements of St. Lucie Unit 1 Technical Specifications 4.8.1.1.3 and 6.9.2. The report provides notification of a 1B Emergency Diesel Generator non-valid failure during surveillance testing.

Should there be any questions on this information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

D.A. Sager
D. A. Sager
Vice President
St. Lucie Plant

DAS:GRM:kw

DAS/PSL #416

Attachment

cc: Stewart D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator, Region II, USNRC
Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC, St. Lucie Plant

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PDR ADOCK 05000335
S PDR

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NRC SPECIAL REPORT
DIESEL GENERATOR NON-VALID FAILURE

At 0904 on March 20, 1991, the St. Lucie Unit One 1B Emergency Diesel Generator was started for its monthly surveillance run. Several attempts were made to synchronize the diesel generator onto the grid; however, the D/G output breaker would not close. Electrical Maintenance was called in to troubleshoot the synchronizing circuitry, and the 1B diesel generator was shut down and declared out of service at 0947.

Corrective Actions: Electrical Maintenance Personnel determined that the D/G synchronizing relay was malfunctioning. System Protection personnel tested the relay electrically and found it to be operable. However, mechanical manipulation of the contact arms caused binding. A calibration of the relay was performed and it was noted that the relay exhibited intermittent binding of the contacts. No replacement relays were available at the time of this failure. Plans are in place to replace the relay following an engineering dedication of a replacement, and PC/M package. The 1B diesel generator was restarted at 1248 and the output breaker was closed at 1255. The surveillance was successfully completed at 1407 and the diesel was declared back in service. The diesel was declared out of service for a total of 4 hours and 20 minutes.

The problem was evaluated to be a non-valid failure per Regulatory Guide 1.108 C.2.e.2, in that the affected circuitry was the D/G synchronizing circuitry. This circuitry is used for surveillance purposes only, when the diesel must be tied onto the live bus. During a Loss of Offsite Power event, this circuitry is bypassed and the D/G will automatically pick up the plant safety bus. At no time during this event was the diesel generator unable to perform its intended safety function.

Failure Summary: With the recent incorporation of amendments to Technical Specification 3.8.1.1 (July 1990), there have been no recorded valid failures of the 1B Emergency Diesel Generator and nine (9) successful starts. The surveillance frequency remains once per 31 days as per Tech Spec 3.8.1.1.