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SUBJECT: Special rept: on 911129, emergency diesel generator 1B started for weekly operational check & output voltage climbed above nominal voltage. Caused by failed component in voltage regulator card. Regulator card replaced.

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December 20, 1991

L-91-346
10 CFR 50.36

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: November 29, 1991
Emergency Diesel Generator Failure

The attached Special Report is being transmitted pursuant to the requirements of St. Lucie Unit 1 Technical Specifications 4.8.1.2.2 and 6.9.2. The report provides notification of a 1B Emergency Diesel Generator failure during the weekly operational check.

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

Very truly yours,


D. A. Sager
Vice President
St. Lucie Plant

DAS/JWH/kw

Attachment

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

DAS/PSL #588-91

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NRC SPECIAL REPORT
DIESEL GENERATOR VALID FAILURE

On 29 November 1991 at 1101 the St. Lucie Unit One 1B Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) was started for the weekly operational check. Operations noted that upon generator excitation the output voltage continued to climb above nominal voltage. The 1B EDG was shut down at 1105 and declared out of service. The 1B EDG was restarted for continued troubleshooting. The problem was repeated for further troubleshooting and the 1B EDG was shutdown at 1649. St. Lucie Unit One was in a refueling shutdown and the 1B EDG was not required to be in service per Technical Specification 3.8.1.2.

The problem was traced to the voltage regulator circuit. The failed component was the auto voltage regulator card. The voltage regulator circuit is designed to produce high generator voltage in the event of a malfunction of the voltage regulator circuit.

Corrective Actions: The auto voltage regulator card was replaced and at 1817 the diesel generator was successfully started. The generator output voltage controlled normally. After performing the operational check the 1B EDG was declared back in service at 1824. The 1B EDG was unavailable for seven hours and nineteen minutes.

Failure Summary: This is the third valid failure of the 1B EDG in the previous 20 valid tests. The 1B EDG has accumulated 22 valid tests since the implementation of the Technical Specification 3.8.1.1 (July, 1990). The current surveillance interval is once per seven days per Technical Specification 4.8.1.2.2.