

Public Service Electric and Gas Company P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038-0236

Nuclear Business Unit

MAR 06 1998

LR-N980089

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

LER 311/98-004-00 SALEM GENERATING STATION - UNIT 2 FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-75 DOCKET NO. 50-311

Gentlemen:

This Licensee Event Report entitled "Failure to Comply with Technical Specification

Surveillance Requirement 4.1.3.1.1" is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of

the Code of Federal Regulations 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B).

Sincerely,

A. C. Bakken III General Manager -Salem Operations

Attachment

BJT

C Distribution LER File 3.7



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NRC FORM 366 (4-95)

FACILITY NAME (1)

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

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DOCKET NUMBER (2) 05000311	page (3) 1 OF 5

TITLE (4)

Failure to Comply With Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.1.3.1.1

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NAME

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

609-339-2022

Brian J. Thomas, Licensing Engineer

SALEM GENERATING STATION UNIT 2

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ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines) (16)

At 1620 on February 4, 1998, the Rod Position Deviation Monitor was declared inoperable when it was determined that the Plant Processing Computer System (P250) was not updating the Rod Position Deviation computer data point "RODDEV". The "RODDEV" computer data point is the Rod Position Deviation Monitor credited in Technical Specification (TS) Surveillance Requirement 4.1.3.1.1. On November 21, 1997, computer point "RODDEV" was disabled apparently without informing the Control Room personnel. Since the operators were not aware that the Rod Position Deviation Monitor was inoperable, control rod positions were not verified every four hours as required TS surveillance requirement 4.1.3.1.1.

The apparent cause of this event is attributed to human error. Corrective actions associated with this event consisted of a lesson learned discussion and the implementation of periodic reviews of the P250 computer points to ensure Technical Specification associated points are not disabled.

This event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B), any condition prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications.

NRC FORM 366A

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

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FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	{	LER NUMBER	(6)	P	AGE (3	() ()
SALEM GENERATING STATION UNIT 2	05000311	YEAR		REVISION NUMBER	2	OF	5
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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form	n 366A) (17)						

PLANT AND SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION

Westinghouse - Pressurized Water Reactor

Plant Computer (COM) {ID/-}* Rod Control System (RCS) {JD/-}

* Energy Industry Identification System (EIIS) codes and component function identifier codes appear as {SS/CCC}.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE

At the time of occurrence, Salem Unit 2 was in Mode 1 at 100% Power.

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE

At 1620 on February 4, 1998, the Rod Position Deviation Monitor was declared inoperable when it was determined that the Plant Processing Computer System (P250) was not updating the Rod Position Deviation computer data point "RODDEV". The "RODDEV" data point provides the input to Overhead Alarm (OHA) window E-24 ("ROD DEV OR SEQ") which automatically alarms when the rods deviate beyond the required number of steps from the group demand counter. The "RODDEV" computer data point is the Rod Position Deviation Monitor credited in Technical Specification (TS) Surveillance Requirement 4.1.3.1.1.

TS Surveillance Requirement 4.1.3.1.1 states that:

"The position of each full length rod shall be determined to be within the limits established in the limiting condition for operation at least once per 12 hours (allowing for one hour thermal soak after rod motion) except during time intervals when the Rod Position Deviation Monitor is inoperable, then verify the group positions at least once per 4 hours."

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)		LER NUMBER	(6)	P	AGE (3)
SALEM GENERATING STATION UNIT 2	05000311	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	3	OF	5
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DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE (cont'd)

A review of computer historical data revealed that computer point "RODDEV" was disabled on November 21, 1997. A Digital Systems Group engineer working in the Unit 2 Control Room Computer Room disabled the "RODDEV" computer point to avoid expected nuisance alarms of OHA window E-24 during work on the P250 computer not related to the Rod Position Deviation Monitor. Control Room personnel were apparently not informed of this action. The computer point was inadvertently left disabled when work in the Computer Room was completed. Since the operators were not aware that the Rod Position Deviation Monitor was inoperable, control rod position verification was not performed every four hours during the period between December 8, 1997 and February 4, 1998, as required by TS surveillance requirement 4.1.3.1.1 to perform the control rod position verification every 4 hours. Prior to December 8, 1997, supplemental control rod position verification was being performed at four hour intervals to comply with TS Surveillance Requirement 4.1.3.5 due to the Rod Insertion Limit Monitor being out of service.

The discovery of this event was delayed due to an inadequate process for performing periodic checks of P-250 computer point status. Upon discovery of the inoperable Rod Position Deviation Monitor, increased control rod position verification in accordance with TS Surveillance Requirement 4.1.3.1.1 was commenced. Computer point "RODDEV" was returned to service and OHA window E-24 was verified operable by satisfactory completion of functional testing. The increased control rod position verification was discontinued at 1632 on February 4, 1998.

CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE

The apparent cause of this event is attributed to human error. A Digital Systems Group engineer working in the Unit 2 Control Room Computer Room disabled the "RODDEV" computer point to avoid expected nuisance alarms of OHA window E-24 during work on the P250 computer not related to the Rod Position Deviation Monitor without apparently informing Control Room personnel. The computer point was inadvertently left disabled when work in the Computer Room was completed.

A contributing cause of this event was inadequate tracking of P250 computer configuration control. No process existed to administratively track computer points that are disabled by conducting periodic checks of P250 computer point status. Additionally, Control Room logs that implement TS Surveillance Requirement 4.1.3.1.1 do not verify the operability of the P250 computer point.

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PRIOR SIMILAR OCCURRENCES							
A review of LERs issued in the past two ve	ears did not identify any	prior si	milar oc	currence	es.		

SAFETY CONSEQUENCES AND IMPLICATIONS

Control Room operators were verifying individual control rod positions every four hours from November 21, 1997 through December 8, 1997 in accordance with TS 4.1.3.5 due to the Rod Insertion Limit Monitor being out of service. Although the shorter time interval of 4 hours for verification of control rod position was not being met as required by TS 4.1.3.1.1 due to the inoperable Rod Position Deviation Monitor, rod position verification was being performed at least every twelve hours in accordance with TS 4.1.3.1.1. A review of the completed control room logs since November 21, 1997 revealed that control rods remained within the requirements of the Limiting Condition for Operation 3.1.3.1 throughout the period. Therefore, the health and safety of the public were not affected.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- 1. P250 computer point "RODDEV" was returned to service and OHA window E-24 was verified operable by satisfactory completion of a functional test on February 4, 1998.
- 2. A review of both Unit 1 and 2 P250 computer points was conducted. No other computer points supporting Technical Specification requirements were identified as being disabled.
- 3. Lessons learned from this event were discussed with Digital System Group personnel. An administrative procedure is also being developed for the control of activities associated with the P250 computer. This procedure will be developed by June 30, 1998.

Additionally, personnel involved in this event would have been held accountable for their inappropriate actions in accordance with PSE&G procedures, however, the individual involved in this event left PSE&G prior to the occurrence of this event.

4. A weekly review of both Units' P-250 computers for disabled computer points has been implemented. Computer points that are identified as being disabled will then be tracked in accordance with procedure SC.OP-DL.ZZ-0010(Q), "Control Room Instrumentation and Alarms".

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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

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CORRECTIVE ACTIONS (cont'd)								
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