



(UPDATE REPORT)

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SURRY POWER STATION, UNIT 1  
DOCKET NO: 50-280  
REPORT NO: 79-037/03X-1  
EVENT DATE: 11/19/79  
TITLE OF EVENT: Low Current on Heat Tracing

1. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT:

With the unit in normal operation at rated power, operator surveillance found that Heat Tracing Circuit 13A was operating at less than the current specified in the surveillance document. No low temperature alarms were indicated.

Investigation for faulty heat tracing tape was initiated on the affected circuit. Faults were found on circuit 13A (panels 8, 9) #1 & #2 Boron Injection recirculation to the Boric Acid Tank and were identified as being the result of excessive heat. The tape was replaced and circuit current verified to be within specs of the surveillance document.

This is a degraded mode of operation permitted by T.S. 3.3.B.5 and is reportable in accordance with T.S. 6.6.2.b.(2).

2. PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES AND STATUS OF REDUNDANT SYSTEMS:

At all times during the event, the temperature of the affected line was maintained as required. The redundant circuit was operable. There were at all times two operable flow paths for boric acid to the reactor. Therefore, the health and safety of the public were not affected.

3. CAUSE:

The reduced currents were due to excessive heating of the heat tracing tape through poor circuit design.

4. IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION:

The heat tracing tape was replaced.

5. SCHEDULED CORRECTIVE ACTION:

The problem was corrected immediately and a design change has been initiated to correct a design deficiency.

6. ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE:

Continuous surveillance is maintained on the Heat Tracing System. No additional action is considered necessary.

7. GENERIC IMPLICATIONS:

In view of the number of failures of this heat tracing tape, a task force has been established to examine the heat tracing system and determine corrective action.