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OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Licensee Event Report Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/79-26/3L-0

Report Date

September 6, 1979

Occurrence Date

August 7, 1979

Identification of Occurrence

Failure of the laundry drain tank discharge piping, resulting in the release of radioactive material. This event is considered to be a reportable occurrence as defined in the Technical Specifications, paragraph 6.9.2.B.4.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence

The plant was operating at steady state power.

Power:

Core, 1904.38 MWt Electric, 638 MWe

Flow:

Recirculating, 15.0×10^4 gpm

Feedwater, 7.188×10^6 lb/hr Stack Gas: 2.79×10^4 µci/sec

Description of Occurrence

On August 7, 1979, at approximately 1030 hours, a leak was discovered in the laundry tank discharge piping in the vicinity of the external penetration of the reactor building. A residual water sample taken was analyzed and revealed identifiable levels of $\rm Mn^{54}$ and $\rm Co^{60}$. A soil sample taken in the immediate vicinity was analyzed and revealed identifiable levels of Co⁶⁰.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence

Component failure was the apparent cause of occurrence.

Analysis of Occurrence

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A complete analysis of this occurrence cannot be made at this time. On March 15, 1979, a similar incident occurred as described in Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-219/79-10/3L. It was during the excavation activities necessary to implement repairs to, and determine extent of contamination from, the drywell equipment drain tank discharge pipe leak, that the laundry tank discharge pipe leak was discovered. These two lines run parallel to one another as they penetrate the reactor building and pipe tunnel on route to the radwaste facility.

The flow rate of the leak was approximated to be 1/2 gpm while water from the laundry tank was being pumped to the radwaste facility. The extent of contamination due to the leak cannot be determined at this time. However, based upon concentration levels found in the soil sample, the contamination appears to be localized. Since it would be extremely difficult to distinguish soil contamination from this leak and the leak of the drywell equipment drain tank discharge piping, a combined supplemental report, with regard to the extent of contamination due to both leaks, will be forwarded upon completion of necessary excavation activities and analysis. The leakage of this material from the laundry drain tank discharge piping and the subsequent contaminating of the soil is not considered to be reportable as defined by 10CFR20, paragraph 20.405.

Corrective Action

Gamma isotopic analysis was performed on a soil and residual water sample collected in the immediate vicinity. The water sample revealed identifiable levels of ${\rm Mn}^{54}$ and ${\rm Co}^{60}$.

The immediate action taken after identifying the source of the leak was the tagging "Out of Service" of the laundry tank pump and isolation of the laundry tank discharge piping. This action took place within two hours after discovery of the leak. A temporary rerouting of the laundry tank water has been made until permanent corrective action is completed.

Corrective action will consist of repairs to the line as well as an inspection of all other piping in the immediate vicinity. Included in the corrective action will be the construction of a structure to enclose these pipe runs from the reactor building to the main pipe tunnel.

Failure Data

Not applicable.