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DESCRIPTION: Ltr trans the following: Abnormal Occurrence on 12-10-75 re inoperable steam generator sample line containment isolation valve..... (AO-50-289/75-42).

ENCLOSURES:

ACKNOWLEDGED

DO NOT REMOVE

PLANT NAME: Three Mile Island Unit 1

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION DHL 12-31-75

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December 19, 1975
GQL 0051

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Mail Section
DOCKETED USNRC
DEC 23 1975
Mail Section
Docket Clerk

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

Docket No. 50-289
Operating License No. DPR-50

In accordance with the Technical Specifications of our Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1 (TMI-1), we are reporting the following abnormal occurrence.

(1) Report Number: AO 50-289/75-42

(2a) Report Date: DEC 19 1975

(2b) Occurrence Date: December 10, 1975

(3) Facility: Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1

(4) Identification of Occurrence:

Title: Inoperable Steam Generator Sample Line Containment Isolation Valve

Type: An abnormal occurrence as defined by the Technical Specifications, paragraph 1.8d, in that a containment isolation valve for the Steam Generator Sample Line failed to close and thus threatened to cause an engineered safety feature or system to be incapable of performing its intended function.

(5) Conditions Prior to Occurrence:

Power: Core: 100%

Elec.: 854 MWe

RC Flow: 139×10^6 lbs/hr

RC Pressure: 2155 psig

14191

RC Temp.: 579°F

PRZR Level: 250 inches

PRZR Temp.: 650°F

(6) Description of Occurrence:

On December 10, 1975, and while conducting the Reactor Building Cooling and Isolation System Logic Channel and Component Surveillance Test, the outside containment isolation valve for the Steam Generator sample line, CA-V5B, failed to close. Upon checking the valve, it was found that the manual operator was not engaged in the neutral position but rather held the valve in the open position thereby preventing it from closing on an automatic signal.

The valve operator was immediately placed in the neutral position. However, the valve still failed to fully stroke to the closed position due to apparent binding of the valve. It was apparent that the binding was caused by the jamming effect of the manual operator holding the valve in the open position while the valve was called to be closed. The inside isolation valve, CA-V4B, was tested and locked closed, in accordance with Technical Specification 3.6.6. A second attempt was made to stroke CA-V5B and the valve became unbound and stroked freely. The valve was subsequently stroked a number of times with no further binding and was, therefore, declared operable.

(7) Designation of Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The cause of this occurrence has been determined to be personnel in that an operator inadvertently left the valve manual operator in the open position rather than in the neutral position, thus preventing the valve from automatically closing and setting up the condition whereby the valve was temporarily jammed. It is believed that the valve was left in this condition on or about November 24, 1975, when the valve was backseated to minimize valve stem leak-off leakage.

(8) Analysis of Occurrence:

It has been determined that this occurrence did not constitute a threat to the health and safety of the public in that the inside isolation valve, CA-V4B, was operable and would have closed automatically if required.

(9) Corrective Action:

In addition to the immediate action described above, all operators will be reinstructed as to the proper operation of this type of valve with emphasis placed on the importance of properly positioning the manual operator in the neutral position to permit unrestricted automatic operation of the valve.

The Plant Operations Review Committee and Station Superintendent have reviewed and approved the above corrective action and have taken steps to assure its completion.

(10) Failure Data: N.A.

Similar Occurrences: None

Sincerely,

R. C. Arnold

RCA:JMC:pa

cc: Office of Inspection & Enforcement, Region 1

1490 049

cc: Mr. G. A. Olson, Secretary
Prime Movers Committee
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90 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016

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