Public Service Company of Colorado

16805 Weld County Road 19 1/2, Platteville, Colorado 80651

November 20, 1979
Fort St. Vrain
Unit No. 1
P-79276

Mr. Karl V. Seyfrit, Director
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76012

REF: Facility Operating License
No. DPR-34

Docket No. 50-267

Dear Mr. Seyfrit:

Enclosed please find a copy of Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-267/79-41/03-X-1, Supplement, submitted per the requirements of Technical Specification AC 7.5.2(b)4.

Also, please find enclosed one copy of the Licensee Event Report for Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-267/79-41/03-X-1.

Very truly yours,

Don Warembourg
Manager, Nuclear Production

DW/cls

cc: Director, MIPC

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REPORT DATE: November 19, 1979

OCCURRENCE DATE: October 26, 1979

REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE 79-41
ISSUE 1

FORT ST. VRAIN NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO
16805 WELD COUNTY ROAD 19 1/2
PLATTEVILLE, COLORADO 80651

REPORT NO. 50-267/79-41/C -1

Supplement

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE:

A malfunction of helium circulator 1C speed modifier caused loss of Plant Protective System function of high speed trips. This resulted in operation under a degraded mode permitted by LCO 4.4.1 and is reportable per Fort St. Vrain Technical Specification AC 7.5.2(b)2.

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

On October 26, 1979, while operating at 30% thermal power and 76 MW electrical power, operations personnel observed that one of three channels for the 1C circulator speed protection tripped on low speed while the circulator was operating at approximately 4,500 rpm.

This resulted in loss of the speed signal and trip capability in one of the three associated high speed trip channels for the 1C circulator. Two redundant channels were available and operable.

CAUSE DESCRIPTION:

Instrument calibration drift due to bridge unbalance.

The balancing problem is caused by a change in resistance between the two leads of the speed element and ground at the circulator connection end. The difference in resistance occurs over a period of time in the cable connectors as a result of the temperature and humidity of the ambient air.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Adjusting the 1C circulator speed modifier restored overspeed protection to the affected channel.

As an interim measure, the adjustment of the speed modifiers is being checked on a weekly basis.

New connectors have been ordered and will be environmentally qualified for installation. The results will be reported in a future supplemental report.

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