

ATTACHMENT TO LER 79-21/3L
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY
HILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION - UNIT 1
PROVISIONAL LICENSE NUMBER DPR21
DOCKET NUMBER 50-245

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE

An instrument that initiates part of the Emergency Core Cooling System logic was found to be tripping outside the allowable band as defined in Technical Specifications.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE

Prior to the occurrence, the plant was operating at steady state full power.

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE

On July 12, 1979, at 1030 hours, while performing routine surveillance (Reactor Low-Low Water Level Functional and Calibration) on vessel level instrumentation, it was found that one of the four level switches (LIS-263-728) would not trip at any level signal.

DESIGNATION OF APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE

Investigation into the incident revealed that foreign particles, which appeared to be metallic in nature, were causing binding of the magnet shaft assembly portion of the switch, causing it to become inoperable.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE

The level switch in question is part of a one-out-of-two-twice logic system that provides the initiation signal for Emergency Core Cooling Systems upon receipt of a reactor vessel low-low level signal. Failure of this switch to trip did not impair the system's ability to perform its intended function. The setpoints of the other three level switches in the logic system were checked and found to be within the desired range.

The switch that failed to operate is manufactured by the Yarway Corporation, Model Number 4418C.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The switch that failed to operate was cleaned, to remove all foreign particles, adjusted and satisfactorily tested.

POOR ORIGINAL

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