

Georgia Power Company
Plant E. I. Hatch
Baxley, Georgia 31513

Event Description and Probable Consequences (continued)

public health or safety due to this event.

Cause Description and Corrective Actions (continued)

The valve was disassembled and the valve seat was found palled. Valve repair is not complete at this time - an LER Update Report will be submitted following completion of valve repair and associated testing.

1657 151

LER #: 50-321/1979-100
Licensee: Georgia Power Company
Facility Name: Edwin I. Hatch
Docket #: 50-321

Narrative Report
For LER 50-321/1979-100

On December 11, 1979, with the unit in steady state power operation (at 99% of licensed thermal power), an observation of the RHR "B" Loop Heat Exchanger Pressure Indicator E11-R606B by a licensed operator in the control room showed that the heat exchanger was being pressurized. Investigation showed that if the LPCI outboard injection valve E11-F017B was closed, then pressurization of the heat exchanger would cease. Thus, the LPCI containment isolation valve E11-F015B was determined to be leaking. This problem is not a recurring one for this loop, but a similar event occurred on the RHR "A" Loop in January, 1979: refer to RO report number 50-321/1979-012. Nothing has happened to indicate that this problem is applicable to the F015 valves on the RHR "A" and "B" Loops on Unit 2; in fact, the valves are from a different manufacturer.

Upon discovery that the E11-F015B valve was leaking, licensed operators closed the E11-F017B valve and declared the RHR "B" Loop inoperable (7 day LCO per Tech Specs section 3.5.B.2.b). After consulting with the Architect Engineer (Bechtel) and the Nuclear Steam System Supplier (GE), plant management made the decision that it would be permissible to operate with both the E11-F015B and E11-F017B valves closed without having to consider the RHR "B" Loop inoperable. The E11-F015B valve was to be repaired the next time the unit was in the cold shutdown condition.

This decision was based upon power being available to operate both the E11-F015B and F017B valves in case of a LOCA and/or LOSP type accident. There were also no system problems because of the configuration. Primary containment integrity was maintained due to both valves being closed (with E11-F017B closed, the pressurizing ceased). Both the I&E (resident site inspector) and the NRR project manager were notified of the site's plans.

On December 15, 1979, the unit was placed in cold shutdown to repair a ground problem on the main generator. The valve was then disassembled and the valve seat was found to be galled. Valve repair is incomplete at this time - an LER update report will be submitted following completion of valve repair and associated testing.