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DESCRIPTION:

Ltr. trans the following....

ENCLOSURES:

Abnor. Occurr. # 75-11, on 4-17-75, concerning High Reactor Power Trip Setpoints Setting...

(1cy. Encl. Rec'd)

PLANT NAME: Three Mile Island # 1

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION VCR 5-2-75

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

Dear Sir:

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

In accordance with the Technical Specifications for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1, we are reporting the following abnormal occurrence:

(1) Report Number: AO 50-289/75-11

(2a) Report Date: April 25, 1975

(2b) Occurrence Date: April 17, 1975

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

(4) Identification of Occurrence:

Title: High Reactor Power Trip Setpoints Setting Less Conservative Than Specified

Type: An abnormal occurrence as defined by the Technical Specifications, paragraph 1.8a, in that the high reactor power trip setpoints setting was less conservative than the limiting setting established in the Technical Specifications.

(5) Conditions Prior to Occurrence:

The reactor was at steady-state power with major plant parameters as follows:

Power: Core: 99.5%
Elec: 852 MW (Gross)

RC Flow: 139 x 10^6 lbs/hr

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RC Pressure: 2155 psig

RC Temp.: 578°F

PRZR Level: 240 in.

PRZR Temp.: 656°F

(6) Description of Occurrence:

While conducting routine Reactor Protection System Surveillance Testing on April 17, the high power trip point for all four channels of the Reactor Protection System was found to be set at 109.5%. The trip setpoints were immediately returned to 104.75%, which is within the specification limit of 105.5%.

An investigation into the cause of the occurrence revealed that the trip setpoints had been improperly set on April 13 while being raised from 4.25% in preparation for unit startup.

(7) Designation of Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The apparent cause of the occurrence is procedure, in that the procedure contained potentially confusing instructions as to where the digital voltmeter should be connected to read the voltage representing the trip setpoint. Personnel error contributed to the cause of the occurrence as the technician failed to obtain guidance in resolving apparent conflict prior to making adjustments and returning the channel to the normal operating status.

(8) Analysis of Occurrence:

It has been determined that the out-of-limit setpoint settings did not constitute a threat to the health and safety of the public for the following reasons:

a. The Power/Flow/Imbalance trip setpoints were set within specification limits to a value corresponding to slightly less than a maximum of 105.5% power. Had an overpower condition occurred, this feature would have performed the function of the high power trip at a value less than the high power trip technical specification limit.

b. The trip setpoint setting was more conservative than that used in Chapter 14 of the TMI-1 Final Safety Analysis Report.

(9) Corrective Action:

Corrective action was taken immediately to return the trip setpoints to a value within technical specification limits. Long-term corrective action has been taken through issuance and implementation of the appropriate procedure revisions to preclude misinterpretation. In addition, the procedures have been revised to require that reactor protection system surveillance be performed by two individuals.

One individual will read the procedure and verify the activities of the other individual, who will make the voltage measurements and setpoint adjustments.

The Plant Operations Review Committee and the Station Superintendent reviewed and approved these actions.

(10) Failure Data:

Not applicable.

Sincerely yours,

R. C. Arnold
Vice President - Generation

RCA/RSB/cas
cc: Office of Inspection and Enforcement, Region 1
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

File: 20.1.1/7.7.3.5.1