



POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-333

ATTACHMENT TO LER 79-118/03L-0

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During normal operations, Drywell Atmosphere Monitor "A" failed while the "B" monitor was out of service. This resulted in operation in a degraded mode allowed by Technical Specifications Appendix A, Paragraph 3.6.D.3. Failure was apparently caused by the presence of moisture or condensation in the sample lines resulting in failure of the sample pumps and the monitor's detector. To meet the Technical Specification requirement to obtain a grab sample each 96-hour period, when the permanently installed equipment is not available, a portable monitor was placed in service in parallel with the permanently installed equipment. This portable equipment provides continuous monitoring of the drywell atmosphere therefore the event does not represent any significant hazard to the public health and safety.

Repair and modification of the heat tracing associated with the sample lines is currently being performed to eliminate excessive concentrations of moisture or condensation. In addition, the source of the moisture or condensation could be the result of a small steam leak inside primary containment in the general vicinity of the sample point. A special review of the unidentified leakage data for the primary containment has been conducted. This review indicates that such leakage (within the limits of Technical Specifications) exists however, the location of the leaks and their possible effect on the monitoring system can not be verified until the next shutdown and cooldown of the plant permitting entry into the primary containment. When repair/modification and the investigation into the source of the moisture is complete and the permanently installed equipment has been returned to service, a follow-up report will be submitted.