Public Service Company of Colorado

16805 ROAD 19½
PLATTEVILLE, COLORADO 80651

June 23, 1980
Fort St. Vrain
Unit No. 1
P-80171

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

Reference: Facility Operating License
No. DPR-34

Docket No. 50-267

Dear Mr. Seyfrit:

Enclosed please find a copy of Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-267/80-20, Preliminary, submitted per the requirements of Technical Specification AC 7.5.2(b)1 and AC 7.5.2(b)2.

Also, please find enclosed one copy of the Licensee Event Report for Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-267/80-20.

Very truly yours,

Don Warembourg
Manager, Nuclear Production

DW/cls

Enclosure

cc: Director, MIPC

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

REPORT NO. 50-267/80-20/03-X-1

Preliminary

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE:

During performance of the monthly check of the helium circulator seal malfunction pressure differential switches, it was discovered that two of twelve switch units tripped outside the limits specified in LCO 4.4.1, Table 4.4-3.

Since reactor operation had taken place during the test interval, this is reportable per Fort St. Vrain Technical Specification AC 7.5.2(b)1 and AC 7.5.2(b)2.

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

During normal plant operation, instrument personnel performed the circulator seal malfunction (buffer-mid-buffer) switch operability check. The switches are normally calibrated on an annual basis; however, due to the problems cited in the previous reports as listed on the LER, a check of buffer-mid-buffer trip settings on a monthly basis has been undertaken as an interim measure to test operability.

There are twelve buffer-mid-buffer switch units, three per circulator. Each switch unit contains two electrical switches. The range of the sensing element is from (-) 100 inches of water to zero to (+) 100 inches of water. One of the electrical switches in each unit must operate at greater than or equal to (-) 10 inches water (negative buffer-mid-buffer), and the other electrical switch must operate at less than or equal to (+) 80 inches water (positive buffer-mid-buffer) per Table 4.4-3.

The trip settings for the twelve switches are listed in Table 1.

The switch settings which were found to be less conservative than those established by the Technical Specification did not prevent the fulfillment of the functional requirements of the system.

CAUSE
DESCRIPTION:

Dirt buildup and accumulation in the electrical switches prevented them from making proper contact.

CORRECTIVE
ACTION:

The trip settings of the electrical switches were re-adjusted to the proper trip points.

Due to the continuing problems being experienced with the electrical switches, the interim check of the trip settings is being conducted on a monthly basis.

The investigation of the problem associated with the helium circulator seal malfunction trip switches has been completed, and Public Service Company Nuclear Project Department is proceeding on a path to replace the existing equipment.

TABLE 1

		As Found Inches H_2O		As Left Inches H_2O	
		Increasing Trip Point	Decreasing Trip Point	Increasing Trip Point	Decreasing Trip Point
1A Circulator	PDIS-21149	+77	-5	+77	-5
	PDIS-21151	+74	-7	+74	-7
	PDIS-21153	+75	-5	+75	-5
1B Circulator	PDIS-21155	+77	-5	+77	-5
	PDIS-21157	+90 (1)	-7	+73	-7
	PDIS-21159	+73	-9	+73	-9
1C Circulator	PDIS-21150	+76	-7	+76	-7
	PDIS-21152	+82 (1)	-21 (1)	+74	-7
	PDIS-21154	+76	-5	+76	-5
1D Circulator	PDIS-21156	+74	-8	+74	-8
	PDIS-21158	+77	-5	+77	-5
	PDIS-21160	+75	-5	+75	-5

(1) Denotes switches which were out of tolerance.

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