



Public Service Company of Colorado

16805 ROAD 19½
PLATTEVILLE, COLORADO 80651

July 1, 1980
Fort St. Vrain
Unit No. 1
P-80191

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/
80-29, Final, submitted per the requirements of Technical Specification
AC 7.5.2(b)2.

Also, please find enclosed one copy of the Licensee Event Report for
Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-267/80-29.

Very truly yours,

Don Warembourg
Don Warembourg
Manager, Nuclear Production

DW/cls

Enclosure

cc: Director, MIPC

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REPORT DATE: July 1, 1980

REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE 80-29

OCCURRENCE DATE: June 2, 1980

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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. 50-267/80-29/03-L-0

Final

IDENTIFICATION OF
OCCURRENCE:

Operations personnel observed that the reactor building pressure could not be maintained subatmospheric. Subsequent investigation revealed that one reactor building louver was not closed.

This resulted in operation in a degraded mode of LCO 4.5.1 a)2 and a)3, and is reportable per Fort St. Vrain Technical Specification AC 7.5.2(b)2.

EVENT
DESCRIPTION:

At 1630 hours on June 2, 1980, with the plant operating at approximately 60% thermal power and 172 MWe, operations personnel observed that reactor building pressure was atmospheric. This is contrary to the requirements of LCO 4.5.1 a)2, and an investigation was initiated to determine the reason for inability to maintain subatmospheric pressure.

At 0010 hours on June 3, 1980, with plant conditions essentially unchanged, investigation revealed that one of ninety-four reactor building louvers was open. The reactor building louver system is designed to preserve reactor building integrity in the event of an over-pressure condition. This system consists of twenty groups, each group containing four to five louvers. The system is designed to maintain the louvers in a normally-closed position via an air supply to a pneumatic actuator. Operations personnel investigating the reactor building pressure problem discovered the open louver and determined that the problem was due to a frozen air line. Because the air line was frozen near the operator, the backup nitrogen supply could not be utilized to maintain the louver in the closed position. Technical Specification LCO 4.5.1 a)3 requires that the louvers must be closed, except during approved surveillance testing.

EVENT

DESCRIPTION: (Cont'd)

Technical Specifications require that the reactor building pressure be maintained subatmospheric in order to reduce the amount of radiation released to the environment during normal operation or accident conditions. A check of radiation monitoring instrumentation by health physics personnel indicates no increase in reactor building activity above background levels during the time period in question; therefore, neither the reduction in reactor building pressure to atmospheric nor the louver being open resulted in any release of radioactivity to the environment.

CAUSE

DESCRIPTION:

Operation in a degraded mode of LCO 4.5.1 was the result of a frozen air line to a reactor building louver pneumatic actuator. The air line had been installed near the liquid nitrogen system piping. The extremely cold temperatures of the liquid nitrogen system, and the close proximity of the air line to the lagging of the nitrogen system piping, resulted in the freezing of a small amount of moisture within the air line. This blocked the air supply to the pneumatic actuator, thus allowing the louver to open, and contributed to the inability to maintain reactor building pressure subatmospheric.

Followup investigation by instrument personnel revealed a crack in the air line tubing. Although thawing operations had restored operability of the system, and sufficient air supply was available to hold the louver closed, the cracked tubing was replaced to insure continued system operability.

CORRECTIVE

ACTION:

Operations personnel moved the air line away from the cold piping of the liquid nitrogen system and thawed out the line. This removed the block in the line, provided air supply to the pneumatic actuator, closed the louver, and returned the reactor building pressure to subatmospheric.

Followup repair by plant instrument personnel on June 3 involved replacement of a piece of cracked tubing to the louver pneumatic actuator.

All louvers in the affected group were subsequently checked and only the air supply tubing for the louver referenced in this report was routed near the liquid nitrogen system piping.

A Plant Trouble Report has been issued to reroute the tubing to the affected louver.

No further problems with louver position or reactor building pressure were observed.

No further corrective action is anticipated or required.

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