Special Report 80-3

Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

Unit 1

ECCS Injection To Reactor Coolant System

Plant Status

Mode 4
Reactor Pressure 350 psig
Reactor Temperature 220°F

Event Description and Probable Consequences

Both Centrifugal Charging pumps automatically started injecting approximately 535 gallons of 20,000 ppm borated water at 193°F into the reactor coolant system.

This is the first safety injection system actuation for Unit 1. This event occurred at moderate reactor temperatures and, therefore, requires no fatigue cycle damage evaluation.

Cause Description and Corrective Action

The automatic initiation was caused by incorrect switch manipulation during the performance of pressurizer pressure channel III functional test, IMI-99-FT 4.3. A contributing factor to the cause was that the procedure was temporarily altered (in accordance with approved plant instructions) to meet the plant conditions at the time of the test.

The safety injection was terminated, one minute after the SI signal was actuated, and the reactor coolant system was restored to pre-initiation conditions. The procedure in question has been permanently revised to minimize any such future occurrences. Maintenance personnel have been cautioned to more closely observe written procedures, especially when new or different methods are being employed.

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