

LER No. 80-017
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station Unit No. 1
Docket No. 05000285

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

Safety Analysis

RMO-61, stack particulate radiation monitor, has dual setpoints for both alert and alarm. The higher set of setpoints is used when a temperature inversion exists to account for increased background radiation due to increased radon activity. Radon is naturally occurring radiation, emitted from the earth's surface. When a temperature inversion exists radon, normally released by the earth to the upper atmosphere, is trapped near the earth's surface. Due to the trapping action of the inversion, background activity can go as high as 2020 CPM, (rather than the normal 60 CPM) thus causing the need for higher setpoints than those used in a non-temperature inversion climate. With the selector switches set in the high setpoint position, Technical Specifications limits could have been violated if the conditions were normal background and normal line up of the ventilation system. However, a review of the recorder chart for the time the switches were inadvertently left in the high position revealed that the release rate did not exceed the rate allowed by the lower settings. Additionally, Technical Specification limits are significantly lower than the limit imposed by 10CFR20. The limits of 10CFR 20 could not have been violated in either switch position.

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Corrective Action

The setpoint selector switches were inadvertently left in the incorrect position after the performance of ST-RM-2, F.2, Process Monitor Checks surveillance test. The test has been revised with a sign-off to indicate that the switches have been returned to the proper position in accordance with the presence of a temperature inversion. No further corrective action is anticipated.

WJZ

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Failure Data

This is the first reportable occurrence of its kind at Fort
Calhoun Station.

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