ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE REPORT

REPORT NUMBER: 50-29/74-2

REPORT DATE: June 19, 1974

OCCURRENCE DATE: June 16, 1974

FACILITY: Yankee Atomic Electric Company, Rowe, Massachusetts

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE: Containment Isolation Actuation System Setpoint Drift.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE: Refueling Shutdown, Shutdown Cocling System Operating, Reactor Coolant Temperature at 100°F.

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE

During routine refueling interval surveillance testing of the Containment Trip Valve Isolation System, Procedure OP-4610, VC Trip Valve Test and Pressure Switch Calibration, one of the two identical pressure switches, PS-231, used to trip the system operated at 5.3 psig. Also, during the same test, the containment air particulate monitor sample lines isolation system pressure switch operated at 7.0 psig. This is a violation of Technical Specification Section D.2.e.8 which lists a maximum setpoint of 5.0 psig.

DESIGNATION OF APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE

PS-231 was set too close to the technical specification limit and normal instrumentation drift caused exceeding the limit.

The vapor container air particulate sample lines isolation system pressure switch's out-of-tolerance setpoint was also due to setpoint drift. The magnitude of the out-of-tolerance value (2 psi) is apparently due to the pressure switch having too great a span for its intended use.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE

PS-231 is one of two identical pressure switches (the other being PS-230) used to trip the Containment Isolation System. If the containment pressure reaches ≤5 psig this system automatically closes 27 trip valves in the vapor container outgoing lines used for the operation of the plant.

PS-230 operated at <5 psig during the above referenced test, and therefore if containment isolation were required because of a LOCA the 27 trip valves would have tripped below the technical specification limit.

The vapor container air particulate monitor has its own system for isolating the two one-inch sampling lines. The two sample lines terminate in a sealed housing containing the air particulate paper drive mechanisms and detector.

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The Reactor Containment Pressure Analysis, YAEC FHSR Section 412 shows that during a LOCA vapor container pressure peaks out at 31.6 psig within 18 seconds. This pressure transient greatly exceeds the out-of-tolerance values of 5.3 and 7.0 psig. It can therefore be concluded that vapor container isolation valves would have all closed during a LOCA and exposure to personnel and radioactive material release would not have taken place because of the out-of-tolerance setpoints thus resulting in no additional risk to public health and safety.

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CORRECTIVE ACTION

The containment isolation actuation system pressure switch, PS-231, was readjusted to operate at 4.4 psig.

The containment air particulate sample lines isolation pressure switch was also readjusted to <5.0 psig. In the near future it will be replaced with a new pressure switch having a narrower span.

FAILURE DATA

N/A

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