ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE REPORT
Big Rock Point Plant

1. Report No: AO-11-75, Docket 50-155

2a. Report Date: May 29, 1975

2b. Occurrence Date: May 20, 1975

3. Facility: Big Rock Point Plant, Charlevoix

4. Identification of Occurrence: Pressure Switch Drift on Condenser Low Vacuum Scram Interlock

5. Condition Prior to Occurrence: Plant in cold shutdown for modification activities associate with AO-1-75.

6. Description of Occurrence: During routine calibration of vacuum interlock switch PS/RE15B, the set point was found to be 362 psig. The Technical Specifications call for less than 350 psig - Ref 6.1.3(E) footnote in Technical Specifications. The switch has been readjusted to operate at 339 psig.

7. Designation of Apparent Cause of Occurrence: Pressure switch drift - both increase and decrease have been experienced in the past with these switches. The basic problem is a misapplication in that a wide range switch has been used with a set point at the extreme low end. Also, the switch cannot be set much below 350 psig because of the restrictive reset characteristic of the vacuum scram switch which resets at approximately 25" Hg. This is difficult to achieve at reactor pressure below approximately 340 psig.

8. Analysis of Occurrence: The operating point of 12 psig above the limit occurred on one of two switches in the protective system channel and, thus, the protective function was operable. The proposed Technical Specifications of March 11, 1975 indicate our request to raise this limit to 500 psig based on settings that are allowed in another similar BWR plant. As the purpose of the switch is to insure that the normal heat sink is available during reactor operation at significant power levels, the drifting of the set point of this switch as experienced has no effect on the safety of operation of the plant. Operation at significant power levels does not occur below a pressure of approximately 1,000 psia.

9. Corrective Action: The switch was reset to operate at 339 psig on May 20, 1975.

10. Failure Data: Reference similar problem with PS/RE15B in AO-7-73 reported in our letter of May 8, 1973 and AO-12-73 reported in our letter of November 13, 1973, component manufacturer, Barksdale Model B1TA32SS.