McGuire Nuclear Station

Incident Report

REPORT NUMBER: 81-66

8106290255

REPORT DATE: May 22, 1981

OCCURRENCE DATE: April 24, 1981; 2328 hours

FACILITY: McGuire Unit 1, Cornelius, NC

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE: During a release from a Waste Monitor Tank (WMT), it was discovered that the flow recorder did not operate.

CONDITION PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE: Mode 3, Hot Standby

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE: While attempting to make a liquid waste release (LWR) from WMT-B, utilizing the B pump it was observed that chart recorder did not function when the pump was placed into operation. This constituted a degraded mode of operation pursuant to McGuire Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 and required going into action statement #31 of table 3.3-12.

<u>ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE</u>: On 1/21/81, a work request was written to implement a Nuclear Station Modification (NSM). This work request required the installation of a Foxboro 557 square root extractor to the respective transmitters. Flow gauges plus a chart recorder were to be changed from logarithmic to linear scales. This work was in progress prior to the date of the occurrence but it did not hamper the operability of the liquid waste disposal system.

Preventive maintenance work requests were issued to perform the regularly scheduled PM/PT. However, there was a failure to stipulate that clearance to begin the work was to be given only by a member of the Radwaste Chemistry group. This requirement was supposed to be incorporated into all preventive maintenance work requests involving Radwaste systems.

The supervisor responsible for performing this work, identified this problem and notified the Radwaste supervisor. It was agreed to perform the preventive maintenance following the completion of the work request.

Two technicians reported to work on the evening shift of April 24, 1981. Two work requests were found on the supervisor's desk and it was decided that these PM/7"'s would be done. Clearance was received to begin the work from the Shift Supervisor on duty. The flow transmitter for the WMT-B pump discharge flow was disconnected but the calibration could not be completed because of the NSM work in progress. The flow transmitter was inadvertantly left disconnected. Report Number 81-66 Page 2

Meanwhile preparations were being made to discharge WMT-B. The discharge was initiated at 2325 hours and it was noticed that the chart recorder indicated no flow. The operator immediately started back tracking the flow signal. It was determined that the transmitter was isolated and being worked on. The release was terminated at 2328 hours and it was calculated that approximately 270 gallons of water were discharged during this time.

The release was restarted at 0518 hours (April 25, 1981) and ended at 0637 hours. Using the pump head vs. flow curve, it was calculated that a total of 5,725 gallons were released.

<u>APPARENT CAUSE</u>: The chart recorder did not function because the flow transmitter associated with the B pump had been isolated. Several personnel errors led to this event, e.g. :

- the job planner failed to indicate that authorization to begin work on this system must be made by Radwaste Chemistry.
- the Shift Supervisor gave authorization to begin work on a system which is under the control of another work group.
- the technicians began work on a piece of equipment without their supervisor's direction and left this equipment inoperable.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: The release was terminated; later released by calculating the volume using the pump head vs. flow curve.

Planning was notified to incorporate a change for only Radwaste Chemistry to authorize work on this system.

The flow transmitter was returned to service at 0900 hours on April 27, 1981.

SAFETY ANALYSIS: With only new, non-irradiated fuel in the core and with no contamination in any of the plant's effluents, this incident did not adversely affect the health and safety of the public. Had radioactivity been present in this batch release, the total volume would still have been determined in the same manner (utilizing the pump head vs. flow curve); thus, the plant could account for the volume of its waste discharge manually.

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