

Ted C. Feigenbaum Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

NYN-90059

March 8, 1990

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

Facility Operating License NPF-67, Docket No. 50-443 Reference:

Subject: Licensee Event Report (LER) No. 90-006-00: Actuation of Control Room Emergency Air Cleanup and Filtration Subsystem due to Failed Radiation Monitor

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find Licensee Event Report (LER) No. 90-006-00 for Seabrook Station. This submittal documents an event which occurred on February 6, 1990, and is being reported pursuant to 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(iv).

Should you require further information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Richard R. Belanger at (603) 474-9521, extension 4048.

Very truly yours,

Ted Chigenlan

Ted C. Feigenbaum

Enclosures: NRC Forms 366, 366A

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New Hampshire Yankee Division of Public Service Company of New Hampshire P.O. Box 300 • Seabrook, NH 03874 • Telephone (603) 474-9521

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attention: Document Control Desk March 8, 1990 Page two

cc: Mr. William T. Russell Regional Administrator United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region I 475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406

Mr. Victor Nerses, Project Manager Project Directorate I-3 United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Division of Reactor Projects Washington, DC 20555

Mr. Noel Dudley NRC Senior Resident Inspector P.O. Box 1149 Seabrook, NH 03874

INPO Records Center 1100 Circle 75 Parkway Atlanta, GA 30339

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On February 5, 1990 at 6:22 pm EST, following a source check the control room ventilation system Train A radiation monitor (RM-6506A) went into a high alarm condition. The monitor is located within the east air intake structure. The alarm condition resulted in the actuation of the Control Room Emergency Air Cleanup and Filtration Subsystem (CBA) [VI] and the transfer of the system to its recirculation/filtration mode. It appears the radiation monitor check source became mechanically bound in front of the detector window, causing the detector to enter into a high alarm condition. The walls of the guide slots were smoothed, and the tension on the solenoid spring was increased. During troubleshooting activities, the detector became detached from the detector assembly plate. The detector tube was remounted, and after an unsuccessful retest of the detector assembly, due to detector tube damage during troubleshooting and remounting, the detector tube was replaced. The detector was returned to service at 3:54 pm on February 7, 1990. There were no adverse safety consequences as a result of this event. All equipment other than the detector functioned as designed, fulfilling the Engineered Safety Features (ESF) function.

Previous events involving ESF actuations resulting from failed radiation monitors were reported via Seabrook Station LERs 90-005-00, 89-001-00 and 87-001-00.

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On February 6, 1990 at 6:22 pm EST, following a source check the control room ventilation system Train A radiation monitor (RM-6506A) went into a high alarm condition. The monitor is located within the east air intake structure. The alarm condition resulted in the actuation of the Control Room Emergency Air Cleanup and Filtration Subsystem (CBA) [VI] and the transfer of the system to its recirculation/filtration mode. The event occurred following an automatic surveillance test which in performed every 24 hours.

## CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

It appears the radiation monitor check source became mechanically bound, such that the check source rod was binding against its guide slots, resulting in the source being positioned in front of the detector window, causing the detector to enter the high alarm condition. The walls of the guide slots were smoothed with emery cloth and the tension of the solenoid spring return was increased to prevent the binding from recurring. During troubleshooting activities, the detector became detached from the detector assembly plate. The detector tube was remounted, and after an unsuccessful retest of the detector assembly, due to detector damage during troubleshooting and remounting, the detector tube was replaced. The detector was returned to service at 3:54 pm on February 7, 1990.

To prevent recurrence of this event, a note will be incorporated into the surveillance procedures for these monitors to look for and remove any burrs on the check sources rod, to adjust spring tension, if necessary, and to visually verify check source smoothness of operation. In addition, the routine performance monitoring and trend analysis activities that have been implemented will continue to track and evaluate future failures of a similar nature. Further corrective actions may result from the investigation into the root cause currently in progress. Any such correction action would be submitted via a supplemental report expected by April 1, 1990.

### ROOT CAUSE

It appears the root cause of the detector failure is mechanical binding of the check source. The binding resulted in the check source being positioned in front of the detector window, causing the detector to go into a high alarm condition resulting in initiation of the Control Room Emergency Air Cleanup and Filtration Subsystem transferring to its recirculation/filtration mode. Due to repetitive problems with CBA radiation monitors, a complete and thorough investigation into the root cause is currently underway and will be submitted via a supplemental report expected by April 1, 1990.

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# SAFETY CONSEQUENCES

There were no adverse safety consequences as a result of this event. All equipment other than the detector check source linkage functioned as designed, fulfilling the Engineered Safety Features (ESF) function. The failure of the monitor in this manner does not impair the ESF function of the Control Room Emergency Air Cleanup and Filtration Subsystem and automatically places the CBA system in the configuration required by Seabrook Station Technical Specification 3.3.3.1.

# PREVIOUS OCCURRENCES

A previous occurrence of an ESF actuation resulting from a radiation monitor check source binding was reported via Seabrook Station LER 90-005-00. Additionally, events involving ESF actuations resulting from failed radiation monitors were reported via Seabrook Station LERs 89-001-00 and 87-001-00; however, these events did not result from check source binding. Four previous instances of check source binding have occurred at Seabrook Station. None of these previous occurrences of binding resulted in an ESF actuation.

At the time of this event, Seabrook Station was in Mode 5, cold shutdown.