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April 23, 1990

10 CFR Part 50 Section 50.73

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attn: Document Control Desk Washington, DC 20555

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PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT Docket Nos. 50-282 License Nos. DPR-42 50-306 DPR-60

Automatic Start of a Safeguards Cooling Water Pump Caused by Inadequate Procedures

The Licensee Event Report for this occurrence is attached.

This event was reported via the Emergency Notification System in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.72, on March 23, 1990. Please contact us if you require additional information related to this event.

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Thomas M Parker Manager Nuclear Support Services

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c: Regional Administrator - Region III, NRC NRR Project Manager, NRC Senior Resident Inspector, NRC MPCA Attn: Dr J W Ferman

Attachment

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On March 23, 1990, both units were operating at full power. The monthly operability test of No. 22 Diesel-Driven Gooling Water Pump was in progress. Immediately prior to the event, No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was running (and supplying the cooling water header) and No. 21 Motor-Driven Gooling Water Pump was off. When No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump was restarted, some indications were that the pump was operating normally, so No. 22 Diesel-Driven Gooling Water Pump was prepared to be stopped. (Though indications were that No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump had assumed some cooling water load, in fact the pump was air bound and was not pumping.) When the speed of No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was reduced (in accordance with the procedure), cooling water header pressure dropped to the setpoint for automatic start of the other Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump; No. 12 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump started at 0350. This was a non-ESF actuation of ESF equipment.

The cause of the event was procedural inadequacy. Plant procedures did not give adequate guidance for the operator to detect loss of prime in a cooling water pump. The cause of the loss of prime of No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump was pump wear, allowing excessive air in-leakage while it was idle.

LICENSEE EVEN	APPROVED OME NO. 3150-0104 EXPIRES 4/30/92 ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WTH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST SOC HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P.530). U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAREHWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE					
FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)	PAGE (3)			
Prairie Island Nuclear Gen Pl	ant Unit 10 15 10 10 10 12 181 2	2 910 - 010 3 - 0 p	0 2 0 = 0 5			

EVENT DESCRIPTION

On March 23, 1990, both units were operating at full power. Prairie Island has 5 cooling water pumps (EIIS Component Identifier: P): 3 non- safeguards motor-driven pumps (EIIS System Identifier Code: KG) and 2 safeguards diesel-driven pumps (EIIS System Identifier Code: BI). The monthly operability test of No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was in progress. In this test, No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump is started, allowed to pick up some of the cooling water system load, and then No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump is shut down. The diesel- driven cooling water pump is run for one hour and then the motor-driven cooling water pump is restarted and the diesel-driven cooling water pump shut down. Immediately prior to the event, No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was running (and supplying the cooling water header) and No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump was off and No. 12 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was off. When No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump was restarted, some indications were that the pump was operating normally (even though it was not), so No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was prepared to be stopped. When the speed of No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was reduced (in accordance with the procedure), cooling water header pressure dropped to the setpoint for automatic start of the other diesel-driven cooling water pump; No. 12 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump started at 0350. This was a non-ESF actuation of ESF equipment.

The procedure asks the licensed control room operator to observe an increase in cooling water header pressure as an indication that the oncoming motordriven cooling water pump has assumed some cooling water load. The control room operator observed a slight increase in cooling water header pressure, and then a slight decrease was observed. The outplant operator stationed locally at the cooling water pumps reported that a cooling water strainer had just entered its backwash cycle, an action that would explain the decrease in header pressure.

The procedure also asks the non-licensed operator to observe a temporary increase in speed of the diesel-driven cooling water pump as an indication that the motor-driven cooling water pump has assumed some of the cooling water load. The operator stationed locally reported he heard a temporary increase in speed.

LICENSEE EVENT	US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REPORT (LER) UATION	APPROVED OMB NO. 3150-0104 EXPIRES: 4/30/92 ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WTH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BUNDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH IP 5301. U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3)50-01041, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.					
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Though observation of those two parameters (header pressure and engine speed) indicated that No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump had assumed some cooling water load, in fact the pump was air bound and was not pumping. Therefore, when the speed of No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was reduced, header pressure dropped to the start setpoint of the other diesel-driven cooling water pump.

No. 12 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was stopped and placed in AUTO at 0530. No. 22 Diesel-Driven Cooling Water Pump was stopped and the surveillance test completed at 0625.

CAUSE OF THE EVENT

The cause of the event was procedural inadequacy. Plant procedures had been revised as a result of a previous event (Unit 1 LER 87-008), but the revision was not effective in preventing recurrence. The revision had asked the operator to verify proper pump operation by observing secondary indicators of system response to starting a pump. Since these indicators can be affected by other system perturbations, the indicators do not provide specific enough information to assure proper pump operation.

The cause of the loss of prime of No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump was pump wear, allowing excessive air in-leakage while it was idle.

ANALYSIS OF THE EVENT

This event is reported under 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(iv).

The health and safety of the public were not affected since the systems operated as expected.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Procedures have been revised to improve guidance for detecting loss of prime.

The start setpoint for No. 121 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump, a nonsafeguards backup pump, has been raised slightly to be sure it will start automatically before the diesel-driven cooling water pumps.

No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump will be replaced shortly after its replacement pump, which was ordered in 1989, is received.

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FAILED COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION

No. 21 Motor-Driven Cooling Water Pump is a Worthington type 16-LN-28 centrifugal pump.

PREVIOUS SIMILAR EVENTS

Previous similar events (cooling water pumps loss of prime) have been reported as Unit 1 LER's 87-008 and 88-002.

