

*Yellow*

AUG 16 1990

Docket No. 50-369  
License No. NPF-9  
EA 90-125

Duke Power Company  
ATTN: Mr. H. B. Tucker, Vice President  
Nuclear Production Department  
Post Office Box 1007  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1007

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION (NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-369/90-14  
AND 50-370/90-14)

This refers to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) special inspection conducted by P. K. Van Doorn and T. Cooper on June 26 - July 5, 1990, at the McGuire Nuclear Station. The inspection included a review of activities associated with the inoperability of both Unit 1 emergency diesel generators for approximately 26 hours on June 25-26, 1990, due to painting of the diesel generator fuel racks which was discovered and reported by the licensee. The report documenting this inspection was sent to you by letter dated July 13, 1990. As a result of this inspection, significant failures to comply with NRC regulatory requirements were identified. An enforcement conference was held on July 31, 1990, in the Region II office to discuss the violations, their cause, and your corrective actions to preclude their recurrence. The letter summarizing this conference was sent to you by letter dated August 3, 1990.

The violation described in Part I of the enclosed Notice of Violation resulted in the degradation of two separate and independent emergency diesel generators (EDG) due to painting of the fuel racks, which prevented proper functioning of the fuel-control plungers. Painting of the EDGs was completed on June 25, 1990. On June 26, 1990, the routine operability surveillance test for EDG 1A was initiated at 9:05 a.m. At this time, the EDG attained the required voltage (4160 volts) in 11.35 seconds instead of the required 11 seconds and was subsequently shut down for troubleshooting. During the test, some arcing was observed during operation at the exciter commutator rings and upon shutdown some paint overspray was found on those rings. EDG 1A was declared inoperable at 10:00 a.m. and a second start, initiated at 10:06 a.m., resulted in the EDG being unable to attain the full required loading. Further evaluation disclosed that the overspray on the commutator rings had little effect on the EDG and that the primary cause of the problem was paint on the fuel racks which prevented proper functioning of linkage and injector pump plungers which operate to vary the amount of fuel being injected into the cylinders. At approximately 11:00 a.m. the EDG 1B fuel racks were examined and paint was also found on most of the linkages and these were found to be sticking during attempted manual movement. EDG 1B was declared inoperable at 11:34 a.m. and Technical Specification (TS) 3.8.1.1.f was entered for two EDGs inoperable.

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The time which elapsed from completion of painting on both EDGs to declaring EDG 1A inoperable was about 26 and a half hours while Unit 1 was operating in Mode 1. During this period, on-site emergency AC power was degraded and the unit was placed in a condition that violated Technical Specifications. Plant management should have been aware of the potential effects of any maintenance work being performed on safety-related equipment and, in this case, the extensive painting done in the EDG Room should have received special oversight and appropriate functional testing should have been completed. The root cause of this problem was inadequate work control. Therefore, in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," (Enforcement Policy) 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1990), this violation has been categorized at Severity Level III.

In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," (Enforcement Policy) 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1990), a civil penalty is considered for a Severity Level III violation. However, after consultation with the Director, Office of Enforcement, and the Deputy Executive Director for Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Regional Operations and Research, I have decided that a civil penalty will not be proposed in this case because you reported the self-disclosing event promptly, you initiated extensive corrective action, and your past performance of maintenance has been good.

The violation identified in Part II of the enclosed Notice involves the violation of administrative procedures regarding the timely logging of this event in the TS Action Item Logbook, and has been categorized as a Severity Level IV violation.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-511.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By  
J. L. Milhann

Stewart D. Ebnetter  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:  
Notice of Violation

AUG 16 1990

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