



Jersey Central Power & Light Company
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OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Licensee Event Report
Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/78-17/3L-0

Report Date

October 12, 1978

Occurrence Date

September 14, 1978

Identification of Occurrence

Failure of isolation condenser valve V-14-37 to open during performance of a routine surveillance test. This event is considered to be a reportable occurrence as defined in the Technical Specifications, paragraph 6.9.2.b.2.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence

The major plant parameters at the time of the occurrence were:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Power: | Reactor, 1277 MWt Electric, 429 MWe |
| Flow: | Recirculation, 61.0×10^6 lb/hr Feedwater, 4.63×10^6 lb/hr |
| Reactor Pressure: | 1020 psig |
| Stack Gas Activity: | 49.0×10^3 μ Ci/sec |

Description of Occurrence

During routine performance of the isolation condenser isolation test on September 14, 1978, the circuit breaker for motor operated valve V-14-37 tripped when the valve was closed by an isolation signal. This condition prevented the valve from opening when the isolation signal was reset. The tripped breaker was reset at the motor control center and the valve was opened. Subsequent investigation indicated the circuit breaker had tripped on overload when the torque switch on the limitorque motor operator failed to trip.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence

The apparent cause of the occurrence was component failure. The set screw on the limitorque torque switch had loosened allowing the switch setting to shift to a higher value.

Analysis of Occurrence

The purpose of the isolation condenser is to depressurize the reactor and to remove reactor decay heat in the event that the turbine generator and main condenser are unavailable as a heat sink. Either of the two isolation condensers can accomplish the purpose of the system. If one isolation condenser becomes inoperable, there is no immediate threat to the heat removal capability for the reactor. The safety significance for this incident is considered minimal based on the availability of the second isolation condenser loop and the short time valve V-14-37 was closed.

Corrective Action

The torque switch setting was corrected and the set screw was tightened. An inspection of the set screws on the limitorque torque switches shall be incorporated into the preventative maintenance program for safety system related valves.

Failure Data

Philadelphia Gear Corporation
Limitorque Division
King of Prussia, PA
Limitorque Type SMB 2