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AEOD/E102

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Facility: Sequoyah 1

Event: Loss of Unit 1 Annunciation

Date of Event: January 26, 1981

Discussion: The event began with the loss of (non-class 1E) which supplies power to Unit 1 and common annunciators only (Unit 2 has a separate inverter for its annunciators). Inverter failure was due to a capacitor shorting that led to two wave-shaping SCR failures also. As a result of this, the output breaker of the inverter tripped. Alternate manual transfer was available and was used three minutes later to re-energize the annunciators. (The inputs to the inverter are from Class 1E 125 V dc battery bus and 600 V ac bus).

Licensee had overlooked the review of such an event in their response to IEB 79-27 (IE had also overlooked this). Licensee will be doing this review now and will also address other means of supplying annunciator power.

This inverter is also by the same manufacturer as the Class IE inverters. The inverters have been subject to several failures in the past. Licensee has been working on improving the reliability of all inverters. (Ongoing NRC review on inverter failures is continuing).

The loss of this particular inverter does not affect safe operation of the plant -- however, the operator would be without annunciators. There is an alarm recorder that will (and did) monitor the loss of the bus. The IEB 79-27 review and subsequent operator training on such an event would improve the situation.

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