

Description of Event

On February 18, 1983, with Unit 1 in Cold Shutdown, the Control Room operator received the Residual Heat Removal (RHR) low flow alarm. The "B" RHR Pump amps were observed fluctuating at 30 ± 3 (normal is 35 amps) and RHR flow was near 2000 GPM (normal is between 3100-4000 GPM.) The "B" RHR Pump was secured and "A" RHR Pump was started. However, the "A" Pump amps only reached 30 ± 3 amps and RHR flow reached approximately 2000 GPM and was fluctuating. Consequently, the "A" RHR pump was secured and an operator in the containment was dispatched to vent each pump.

Probable Consequences of Occurrence

The operability of the RHR system ensures that Residual Heat Removal capability is available below 350°F following plant shutdown. Since the RHR Pumps were only shutdown for approximately 5 minutes and RCS temperature did not appreciably increase the public health and safety were not affected.

Cause of Event

The cause of the event could not be determined. Plant conditions at the time of the occurrence were as follows: The pressurizer was at 88% and being filled via charging pump seal injection; RHR letdown to the Chemical Volume Control System was isolated; one Pressurizer Power Operated Relief Valve was blocked open and vented to the Pressurizer Relief Tank which was at a pressure of 9 psig. No other abnormal conditions existed in the RCS or other adjacent systems.

Immediate Corrective Action

After the pumps were secured the containment operator attempted to vent each pump. No air was observed while venting either pump. The "B" RHR Pump was again started ("B" Pump reached the proper current and flow values) and vented. Again, no air was vented off the pump. Subsequent operation of the "B" RHR Pump and later, of the "A" RHR Pump was uneventful.

Scheduled Corrective Action

The operation of the RHR pumps are being monitored for proper operation. Further engineering studies and/or tests will be conducted to determine the cause of this event.

Actions Taken to Prevent Recurrence

No further action is required.

Generic Implications

No generic implications have been found at this time.