

LER No. 50-368/83-009/01T-0

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Occurrence Date: 02/25/83

Cause Description and Corrective Action (Continued)

The degraded couplant is "Never-Seez", which was recommended by the NSSS vendor to improve heat transfer between the thermowell and the RTD.

1. Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-368/83-009/01T-0
2. Report Date: _____ 3.0 Occurrence Date: _____
4. Facility: Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit
Russellville, Arkansas
5. Identification of Occurrence:
Five (5) Reactor Coolant System Resistance Temperature Detectors (RTD's) did not meet the required six (6) second response time as per Technical Specifications (T.S.) Table 3.3-2 based on a surveillance test. This occurrence is reportable per T.S. 6.9.1.8.e.
6. Conditions Prior to Occurrence:

Steady-State Power	X		Reactor Power	2618	MWth
Hot Standby			Net Output	830	MWe
Cold Shutdown			Percent of Full Power	93	%
Refueling Shutdown			Load Changes During Routine Power Operation		
Routine Startup Operation					
Routine Shutdown Operation					
Other (specify)					
7. Description of Occurrence:
On 2/25/83 with the Unit in Mode 1 operations (approximately 93% full power), a surveillance test was conducted per T.S. on the RTD's which provide input to the Plant Protective System (PPS) via the Core Protection Calculators (CPC's). Analysis and Measurement Services (AMS) of Knoxville, TN conducted the test, performed the subsequent data analysis, and informed AP&L on 3/4/83 of the results. The results of the analysis indicated that five (5) of the RTD's exceeded the required six (6) second response time. This is similar to LER's 82-001 and 81-017.

8. Designation of Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

Design	_____	Procedure	_____
Manufacture	_____	Unusual Service Condition Including Environmental	_____
Installation/ Construction	_____	Component Failure	_____
Operator	_____		
Other (specify)			

This occurrence was caused by the degradation of the couplant ("Never-Seez") used to mate the RTD into the thermowell. "Never-Seez" is recommended for this application by the NSSS vendor to improve heat transfer between the Thermowell and the RTD.

9. Analysis of Occurrence:

The degraded RTD response time would increase the PPS response time in protecting against low DNBR or High Local Power Density occurrences. This occurrence affected two (2) of four (4) CPC channels and their respective PPS channels. This is a continuing problem at ANO 2 and has been and is the subject of investigation. Previous analysis of degraded RTD response times has shown the couplant to be dried out, leaving a powdery residue which fails to provide the necessary thermal conductance between the Thermowell and the RTD. A recent T.S. revision provided the necessary action of installing appropriate penalty factors into the two (2) affected CPC channels rather than shutting the unit down.

10. Corrective Action:

Corrective action was to install penalty factors corresponding to the degraded RTD response times in the two (2) affected CPC's, per T.S. 3.3.1.1. In anticipation of further RTD response time degradation, additional penalty factors corresponding to an effective RTD time constant of 8.0 seconds have been installed in all four (4) CPC's and in the Core Operating Limits Supervisory System (COLSS). The first set of penalty factors was installed on 3/4/83 shortly after receiving the surveillance test results; the additional penalty factors were installed on 3/11/83 after Plant Safety Committee approval.

11. Failure Data:

"~~Never-Seez~~" is the brand of couplant which caused this event.