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February 14, 1995

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Subject: River Bend Station - Unit 1
Docket No. 50-458
Special Report - Failure of Division II EDG Ventilation Fan Breaker

File No.: G9.5, G9.25.1.3

RBG-41197
RBF1-95-0044

Gentlemen:

On January 19, 1995, the Division II Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) experienced an invalid failure when the diesel room standby ventilation fan failed to auto-start during the monthly Division II EDG Operability Test. The engine did start successfully, and the EDG attained synchronous speed, voltage and frequency within the time limits required by Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.2.a.4.(a). No attempt was made to synchronize the generator and load it, as the test personnel readily observed the fan condition and conservatively terminated the EDG test.

This event is considered an invalid failure per Regulatory Guide 1.108, Regulatory Position C.2.e.(2). The ventilation fan is not a part of the "defined diesel generator unit" as specified in this Regulatory Guide. This Special Report is submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.3.

During the performance of the scheduled monthly surveillance, the Division II EDG was given a NORMAL START signal from the local control panel. Per design, an auto-start signal is sent to the ventilation fan after the EDG reaches rated speed. The 480 VAC breaker supplying the fan should close, and the fan should start. During the performance of this surveillance, the operators and system engineer observed that the fan did not start automatically, as anticipated. Manual attempts to the start the fan were made and were unsuccessful. The shift supervisor was notified and the EDG was secured. No attempt was made to load the EDG.

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The EDG, although considered inoperable per the Technical Specifications, was kept "available" while the cause of the fan failure was determined and corrected. Operations was made aware that if the engine auto-started and loaded, the engine room temperature would need to be monitored.

A Maintenance Work Order (MWO) was initiated to troubleshoot the fan supply breaker. This trouble shooting verified that the breaker was receiving a start signal. The investigation revealed that the breaker would attempt to close, then trip open. The breaker was then racked out and removed from its cubicle for a detailed inspection. This inspection found problems with the alignment of internal parts of the breaker. It was concluded that this condition prevented it from remaining closed. A replacement breaker was installed and verified operable. The EDG monthly surveillance was then performed successfully, and the Division II diesel generator was declared operable.

The root cause of the breaker failure is under evaluation. The subject breaker is a General Electric type AKR-30. Since this breaker was a refurbished breaker that had seen limited service, it was returned to the vendor for a more detailed evaluation. The evaluation by the vendor is not expected to be completed by the 30-day requirement for this report. A supplemental report, containing the results of this evaluation and appropriate long-term corrective actions will be submitted within 30 days of receipt of the vendor's evaluation.

The statistics for the number of valid EDG failures at River Bend were not impacted by this condition. These statistics are as follows:

Length of Time the Division II EDG was Out of Service: 28 hrs., 43 minutes (Inoperable but considered Available)

Current Surveillance Interval: Div. II - Monthly

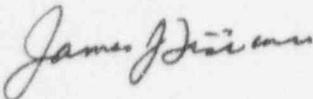
Test Interval Conforms to Technical Specifications: Yes

Failures for Division II EDG: 1 valid failures in the last 20 valid tests
1 valid failures in the last 100 valid tests

Failures for Division I, II, and III EDGs (combined): 1 valid failure in the last 100 valid tests,
combined total all RBS EDG

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If there are any questions concerning this issue please contact T. W. Gates at (504) 381-4866.



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