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Nuclear Business Unit

JAN 31 1996  
LR-N95239

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

**RETEST SCHEDULE FOR DRYWELL TO SUPPRESSION CHAMBER  
VACUUM BREAKERS PER TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 4.6.2.1.e  
HOPE CREEK DOCKET NO. 50-354**

On November 10, 1995, at 1344, Hope Creek Generating Station (HCGS) entered Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.6.1.1 because the Surveillance Requirements of 4.6.2.1.e could not be met. A unit shutdown was initiated at 1422, and the plant was subsequently brought to Hot Shutdown on November 11, 1995, at 0145.

The cause of the failure to meet the Surveillance Requirements of 4.6.2.1.e is that one or more of the Suppression Chamber Vacuum Breakers were experiencing bypass leakage. In Licensee Event Report (LER) 354/95-031-00, issued to the NRC on December 11, 1995, Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) stated that the 'F' and 'G' vacuum breakers appear to be the main contributors to this occurrence. Testing conducted to date has confirmed that the 'F' vacuum breaker was a contributor to the surveillance test failure.

In LER 354/95-031-00, PSE&G committed to revise the testing methodology and to establish a vacuum breaker performance trending program. The Drywell to Suppression Chamber Pressure Decay Tests will be performed in Operational Condition 4 (Cold Shutdown), following a one hour temperature stabilization period and utilizing an Integrated Leak Rate Test type valve lineup. An administrative bypass leakage limit, lower than that allowed by Technical Specifications, will be established. The results from the tests will be trended, and corrective maintenance will be performed when the bypass leakage exceeds the administrative limit.

A Drywell to Suppression Chamber Pressure Decay Test will be successfully completed prior to startup from the current refueling outage. The program to trend vacuum breaker performance will be established by March 1, 1996.

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During the implementation of these corrective actions, PSE&G discovered that the existing test methodology is not in compliance with the UFSAR requirements and has determined that the past Drywell to Suppression Chamber Pressure Decay surveillance tests are suspect. If the past Drywell to Suppression Chamber Pressure Decay surveillance tests are determined to have been inadequate, details concerning this issue will be provided in a supplement to LER 354/95-031-00.

HCGS previously experienced a Drywell to Suppression Chamber Pressure Decay surveillance test failure in 1992. The corrective maintenance that was performed in 1992 included work on the 'F' vacuum breaker. This work included replacing the hinge alignment pins, adjusting the pallet to attain proper seating of the seal, and readjusting the seal bolting to attain a satisfactory seal. PSE&G has now determined that the root cause of the 'F' vacuum breaker, on both occasions, was a hinge arm to valve body misalignment. The corrective maintenance that was performed in 1992 did not address this root cause, and, therefore, was not effective for the long-term.

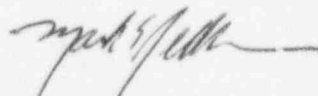
In accordance with the Surveillance Requirements of 4.6.2.1.e, PSE&G provides the following test schedule for Commission review and approval.

PSE&G believes that it is appropriate for HCGS to continue to perform Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.6.2.1.e on an eighteen month interval. This test schedule is proposed based on the enhanced vacuum breaker trending and the corrective maintenance that is being performed on the vacuum breakers during the current refueling outage, including addressing the root cause of the failures of the 'F' vacuum breaker.

This proposed test schedule is being submitted for your review and approval as required by Technical Specification 4.6.2.1.e.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,



M. E. Reddemann  
General Manager -  
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