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10CFR50.73

March 6, 1996
NRC-96-0019

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington D. C. 20555

Reference: Fermi 2
NRC Docket No. 50-341
NRC License No. NPF-43

Subject: Licensee Event Report (LER) No. 96-001

Please find enclosed LER 96-001, Revision 0, dated March 5, 1996, for a reportable event regarding the identification of a potential for a common cause failure of diesel generator cooling water function due to ice formation in the pump column that occurred on February 6, 1996. A copy of this LER is also being sent to the Regional Administrator, USNRC Region III.

Detroit Edison management recognizes the serious nature of this event due to the potential loss of cooling function for both divisions and that a more conservative course of action should have been pursued during the initial investigation of this event. Higher priority should have been given to considering the possibility of a common cause failure and testing all the pumps earlier to ascertain whether they were capable of starting and providing their safety function. Based on the fact that by design the pump columns above the Residual Heat Removal (RHR) reservoir should be dry; the satisfactory past performance of these pumps; no evidence of past icing concerns; the fact that the air space below the pump room in Division 2 was 6 degrees F higher; and the fact that Diesel Generator Service Water (DGSW) pump A had run without a problem immediately prior to the problem with DGSW pump C, the possibility of additional icing problems was judged unlikely until problems were found with DGSW pump B. However, Detroit Edison staff should be more sensitive to any potential for common cause failure mechanisms and take appropriate actions expeditiously to confirm system and component operability in both divisions.

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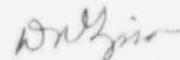
Because of the importance of this event, I have distributed a memorandum to Operations, Engineering, Licensing, and Training personnel to discuss the event and the questions that should be asked in such an event. I have requested each staff member in the departments mentioned above to personally acknowledge reading and understanding this memorandum. Discussions covering the information in the memorandum have been held with the operating shifts.

The following commitments are made in this LER:

1. Administrative controls are currently in place in the form of Night Orders to monitor the temperatures in the air space below the RHR Complex pump rooms on a per shift basis. The monitoring of the air space will be initiated whenever outside temperature falls below 36 degrees F. Should the temperature in a division fall below 36 degrees F for three consecutive shifts, then the service water pumps in the affected division will be run. These controls will be replaced by procedural changes by March 29, 1996. These procedure changes will remain in effect until any design changes are made.
2. Design changes to prevent freezing in the safety-related service water pumps in the RHR Complex are being evaluated. The results of the evaluation will be in place by next winter.
3. Training will be developed and conducted for appropriate personnel, their organizational unit heads, and their senior management by June 28, 1996. This training will focus on increasing staff sensitivity to potential common mode failures and on a better understanding of when plant conditions may be outside the design basis.

If you have any questions, please contact Mari Jaworsky, Compliance Engineer, at extension 313-586-1427.

Sincerely,



Enclosure: NRC Forms 366, 366A

cc: T. G. Colburn
M. J. Jordan
H. J. Miller
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M. V. Yudasz, Jr.
Region III
Wayne County Emergency
Management Division