

TOLEDO EDISON COMPANY
DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT ONE
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR LER NP-33-79-27

DATE OF EVENT: February 8, 1979

FACILITY: Davis-Besse Unit 1

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE: Diesel Fire Pump battery electrolyte level low

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: The unit was in Mode 1, with Power (MWT) = 2409, and Load (Gross MWE) = 783.

Description of Occurrence: On February 8, 1979 at 0830 hours during the performance of the "Diesel Fire Pump Weekly Surveillance Test", ST 5016.01, it was discovered that the Diesel Fire Pump battery electrolyte level in four cells was slightly below the top of the cell plates. The surveillance test was suspended, and the Diesel Fire Pump was declared inoperable at 0830 hours on February 8, 1979, per Technical Specification 3.7.9.1.

Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.7.9.1.3 requires that the fire pump diesel 24 volt battery bank and charger be demonstrated operable by at least once per seven days verifying that the electrolyte level of each cell is above the plates.

Designation of Apparent Cause of Occurrence: The apparent cause of the occurrence was an inadequate procedure. ST 5084.01, "Station Battery Weekly Surveillance Test" only required personnel to check the cells levels, but did not require personnel to fill to the high fill point. The Station Battery Weekly Surveillance Test was performed on February 7, 1979, and verified that the electrolyte level in the Diesel Fire Pump batteries was above the plates. Since the electrolyte level was verified as being above the plates, no electrolyte was added. As the result of evaporation, the electrolyte level decreased enough such that the level was found to be below the plates during the performance of ST 5016.01 on February 8, 1979 at 0830 hours.

Analysis of Occurrence: There was no danger to the health and safety of the public or to unit personnel. The electric fire pump was available had an incident occurred requiring the Fire Protection System. In addition, it should be noted that the Diesel Fire Pump did start and run satisfactorily even with the slightly low electrolyte level indicating it also could respond to an incident requiring the Fire Protection System.

Corrective Action: Upon discovery of the low electrolyte level, Maintenance Work Order 79-1422 was written to raise the levels in the cells above the plates. The levels were restored to normal and the Diesel Fire Pump was then declared operable at 1315 hours on February 8, 1979, thus removing the unit from the Action Statement of Technical Specification 3.7.9.1.

There is an existing modification (T-2694) to ST 5084.01, "Station Battery Weekly Surveillance Test" which addresses the verification of all battery cell electrolyte levels in the Diesel Fire Pump batteries. In order to clarify T-2694, modification M-2705 has been submitted and will incorporate T-2694 into the procedure (ST 5084.01) and also provide additional information for the filling of all Diesel Fire Pump battery cells each week.

Failure Data: There has been one previously reported occurrence of low Diesel Fire Pump battery electrolyte level. See Licensee Event Report NP-33-78-52.

LER #79-022