

LER SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

BFRO-50- 296 / 8304 Technical Specification Involved 3.8.A.1

Reported Under Technical Specification 6.7.2.b.(4) * Date Due NRC _____

Event Narrative:

Unit 1 was at 99 percent power and units 2 and 3 were in refueling and maintenance outages, respectively. Only unit 3 was affected by this event. During maintenance on unit 3, reactor coolant leaked from RHR heat exchanger 3D into the RHR service water system which discharges into the Wheeler Reservoir. The concentration in the discharge water released was in excess of Technical Specification 3.8.A.1 limits. The heat exchanger was immediately isolated. 3B RHR heat exchanger was available and placed in service. Because the radiation monitor monitoring 3B heat exchanger is also common to 3D heat exchanger, residual radioactivity caused an alarm with 3B heat exchanger in service. It was isolated, resulting in complete loss of shutdown cooling capability. (3A and 3C RHR was out of service previously for valve maintenance). This resulted in initiation of an ALERT in accordance with the Radiological Emergency Plan. Reactor cooling was maintained through the condenser, CRD and reactor water clean-up systems until it was confirmed that the suspected leak on 3B heat exchanger was due to the false indication. 3B heat exchanger was returned to service and the ALERT terminated. Both sides of 3D heat exchanger were isolated and drained to prevent further radioactive discharge from the plant.

(continued)

* Previous Similar Events: None

Retention: Period - Lifetime; Responsibility - Document Control Supervisor

*Revision: JRP

Event Narrative (Continued)

Corrective maintenance was initiated to locate and repair the leaking heat exchanger. Extensive analysis (see attached vendor report) revealed twelve tubes to be dented with one dented tube leaking. All 12 dented tubes were plugged.

Metallurgical examination of the subject tube has been performed. Leakage was through a circumferentially oriented crack. Mechanical damage to the tube was noted in the location of the crack. This mechanical damage appears to have caused the failure. "Bite" marks on either side of the crack are additional evidence of mechanical damage. Several metallographic cross sections of the crack did not reveal any evidence of corrosion assistance to the failure. It is most likely that this tube was installed in the heat exchanger in a damaged condition. Since the other tubes found to be in a mechanically damaged condition have been plugged, no further corrective actions are recommended at this time.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

P. O. Box 2000

Decatur, Alabama 35602

November 2, 1984

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

Dear Sir:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY - BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) UNIT 3 -
DOCKET NO. 50-296 - FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE DPR-09 - REPORTABLE
OCCURRENCE REPORT BFRO-50-296/83004 R1

The enclosed report provides additional details concerning a release into
Wheeler Reservoir in excess of Technical Specification limits. This report
is submitted in accordance with Browns Ferry Unit 3 Technical Specification
6.7.2.b.(4).

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

D. T. Jones
G. T. Jones
Plant Manager
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

Enclosure

cc (Enclosure):
Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

INPO Records Center
Suite 1500
1100 Circle 75 Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

NRC Resident Inspector, BFN

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