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C. K. McCoy
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Vogtle Project

Georgia Power
the southern electric system

May 14, 1996

LCV-0819

Docket Nos. 50-424

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

Gentlemen:

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT
SURVEILLANCE TEST NOT PERFORMED FOR
NEUTRON FLUX CHANNEL

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.73, Georgia Power Company (GPC) hereby submits the enclosed report associated with an event which was discovered on April 20, 1996.

Sincerely,

C.K.McCoy

C. K. McCoy

CKM/HWM/gmb

Enclosure: LER-1-96-04

cc: Georgia Power Company
Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Mr. M. Sheibani
NORMS

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. S. D. Ebneter, Regional Administrator
Mr. L. L. Wheeler, Licensing Project Manager, NRR
Mr. C. R. Ogle, Senior Resident Inspector, Vogtle

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NRC FORM 366 (4-95)

U.S.NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

- LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

APPROVED OMB NO. 3150-0104
EXPIRES: 04/30/98
ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS MANDATORY INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. REQUIRED LESSONS LEARNED ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE LICENSING PROCESS AND FED BACK TO INDUSTRY. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (T-6 F33), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	PAGE (3)
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 1	5 0 0 0 4 2 4	1 OF 4

TITLE (4)
SURVEILLANCE TEST NOT PERFORMED FOR NEUTRON FLUX CHANNEL

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER(S)
0 4	2 0	9 6	9 6	– 0 0 4 –	0 0					0 5 0 0 0
									FACILITY NAME	0 5 0 0 0

THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11)

OPERATING MODE (9)	2								
POWER LEVEL (10)	0 0 0	20.2201(b)		20.2203(a)(2)(v)	X	50.73(a)(2)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(viii)
		20.2203(a)(1)		20.2203(a)(3)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(ii)		50.73(a)(2)(x)
		20.2203(a)(2)(i)		20.2203(a)(3)(ii)		50.73(a)(2)(iii)		73.71
		20.2203(a)(2)(ii)		20.2203(c)(1)		50.73(a)(2)(iv)		OTHER
		20.2203(a)(2)(iii)		50.36(c)(1)		50.73(a)(2)(v)		Specify in Abstract below
		20.2203(a)(2)(iv)		50.36(c)(2)		50.73(a)(2)(vii)		or in NRC Form 366A

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code) AREA CODE
Mehdi Sheibani, Nuclear Safety and Compliance	7 0 6 8 2 6 - 3 2 0 9

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)			EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	X	NO				

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-space typewritten lines) (16)

On April 20, 1996, power range neutron flux channel NI-44 was restored to service following removal of a reactivity computer which had been installed for recently completed low power physics tests. Later, the shift superintendent determined that an analog channel operational test (ACOT) surveillance had not been performed prior to restoring the channel to service. A limiting condition for operation (LCO) was entered, the ACOT was successfully completed, and the channel was restored to service. This represented operation of the unit in a condition prohibited by the Technical Specifications (TS) because the channel had been restored to service without the necessary surveillance testing being completed.

The cause of this event was a cognitive personnel error in failing to apply appropriate administrative controls to ensure that the required NI44 ACOT was completed prior to restoring the channel to service. Since the channel was out of service and unavailable to perform the ACOT, the surveillance should have been annotated on the LCO status sheet as a component restoration requirement.

A. REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT

This report is required per 10 CFR 50.73 (a)(2)(i) because the unit operated in a condition prohibited by the Technical Specifications (TS) when a neutron flux channel was returned to service without a surveillance test being performed.

B. UNIT STATUS AT TIME OF EVENT

At the time of this event, Unit 1 was operating in Mode 2 (startup) at 0 percent of rated thermal power. Other than that described herein, there was no inoperable equipment that contributed to the occurrence of this event.

C. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

TS Table 3.3-1, Item 2.b, requires 3 of 4 power range neutron flux channels to be in service in modes 1 and 2. It also requires an analog channel operational test (ACOT) to be performed within 31 days prior to startup of the unit . On April 19, 1996, the ACOT was successfully completed for 3 of 4 power range neutron flux channels after which mode 2 was entered. The fourth channel, NI-44, was in trip with a portable reactivity computer utilizing the channel for low power physics testing.

On April 20, 1996, personnel completed low power physics testing and removed the portable reactivity computer from NI-44. The channel was restored to service per an I&C restoration procedure and declared operable at 1300 EDT, following performance of a channel check.

At 1500 EDT, the shift superintendent (SS) determined the ACOT surveillance test had not been performed prior to reactor startup or restoration of the channel to service, and a limiting condition for operation (LCO) was entered. The channel was placed in bypass and an ACOT was successfully completed. The channel was restored to service and the LCO was exited at 1619 EDT. The period from 1300 EDT to 1500 EDT encompasses a period of unit operation in a condition prohibited by the TS because the channel had been restored to service without the necessary surveillance testing being completed.

D. CAUSE OF EVENT

The cause of this event was a cognitive personnel error in failing to apply appropriate administrative controls to ensure that the required ACOT was completed. Although the NI44 was properly out of service to support low power physics testing, and consequently unavailable to complete the ACOT, existing plant procedures and practices stipulate that the requirement should have been annotated on the Unit Operating Procedure in effect and on the restoration section of the LCO tracking form. The listing of the surveillance procedure would have prompted the USS to perform the ACOT prior to restoring the channel to service. A shift supervisor assisting the USS failed to list the surveillance procedure on the restoration section of the LCO. This cognitive personnel error on the part of the Georgia Power Company shift supervisor involved was not the result of any unusual characteristics of the work location.

E. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

TS Table 3.3-1 requires 3 of 4 power range neutron flux channels to be operable in Modes 1 and 2. Because NI-44 represented the fourth channel, an adequate safety margin for neutron detection already existed. Additionally, the satisfactory completion of the surveillance testing provides additional assurance that NI-44 was functioning properly. Finally, no event occurred during the period of time involved that required the detectors to perform a reactor protection system function. Based on these considerations, there was no adverse affect on plant safety or on the health and safety of the public as a result of this event.

F. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

1) The shift supervisor who failed to list the surveillance procedure on the restoration section of the LCO status sheet as well as operations personnel who reviewed surveillance requirements have been counseled. Application of administrative controls to assure full component operability prior to component or system restoration was stressed.

2) The lessons learned from this event will be reviewed in licensed operator requalification training by June 28, 1996.

3) Procedure(s) will be modified to assure completion of surveillance testing prior to reactivity computer installation. These procedure modifications will be completed prior to the next refueling outage.

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6) YEAR	SEQUENTIAL YEAR	REVISION NUMBER	PAGE (3)
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 1	0 5 0 0 0 4 2 4	9 6	– 0 0 4	– 0 0	4 OF 4

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A)(17)

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1) Failed Components:
None

2) Previous Similar Events:
None

3) Energy Industry Identification System Code:
Neutron Detection System - IG