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Georgia Power
the southern electric system

C. K. McCoy
Vice President, Nuclear
Vogtle Project

December 18, 1996

LCV-0931

Docket No. 50-424

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 1-96-12
LOSS OF MAIN GENERATOR STATOR COOLING
LEADS TO TURBINE/REACTOR TRIP

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.73, Georgia Power Company (GPC) hereby submits the enclosed report associated with an event which occurred at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant on November 27, 1996.

Sincerely,

C. K. McCoy

CKM/TEW/AFS
Enclosure: LER 1-96-12

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)

FACILITY NAME (1): Vogtle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 1

DOCKET NUMBER (2): 05000424

PAGE (3): 1 OF 3

TITLE (4): MAIN GENERATOR STATOR COOLING SHORT CIRCUIT LEADS TO TURBINE/REACTOR TRIP

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)
11	27	96	96	012	00	12	18	96		05000
									FACILITY NAME	05000

OPERATING MODE (9)	1
POWER LEVEL (10)	100

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

20.2201(b)	20.2203(a)(2)(v)	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)	20.2033(a)(3)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(iii)	73.71
20.2203(a)(2)(ii)	20.2033(c)(1)	X 50.73(a)(2)(iv)	OTHER
20.2203(a)(2)(iii)	50.36(c)(1)	50.73(a)(2)(v)	Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A
20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	50.36(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)	

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)
Mehdi Sheibani, Nuclear Safety and Compliance	AREA CODE 706 826-3209

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 November 27, 1996, a technician was working in the stator cooling water/hydrogen seal oil panel to recalibrate a hydrogen low pressure switch. The technician moved a metal valve tag that shorted across an exposed terminal strip, blowing a fuse in the stator cooling water system. Two temperature switches lost power which initiated a turbine/reactor trip at 0846 EST. The unit was stabilized in Mode 3 (hot standby).

The root causes of this event were the proximity of the conducting metal tag to the electrical terminal, which significantly increased the probability of this event occurring, and poor lighting in the panel which contributed to the technician's inability to recognize the terminal strip under the metal tag. The fuse was replaced and metal tags near terminal strips in the stator cooling water/hydrogen seal oil panel were removed. In addition, the panel's interior light will be replaced when the unit is shutdown.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION**

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

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

A. REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT

This report is required per 10 CFR 50.73 (a)(2)(iv) because an unplanned reactor protection system actuation occurred.

B. UNIT STATUS AT TIME OF EVENT

At the time of this event, Unit 1 was operating in Mode 1 (power operations) at 100 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

On November 27, 1996, a technician was working in the stator cooling water/hydrogen seal oil panel to recalibrate a hydrogen low pressure switch. The technician moved a metal valve tag that shorted across an exposed terminal strip, blowing a fuse in the stator cooling water system. The resulting loss of power to two temperature switches initiated a turbine/reactor trip at 0846 EST. The main feedwater system isolated and the auxiliary feedwater (AFW) system actuated, as designed. Operators responded by stabilizing steam generator water levels and transitioning the unit to normal operation in Mode 3 (hot standby).

D. CAUSE OF EVENT

The direct cause of this event was the metal tag coming in contact with the terminal strip. Other than those described below, there were no other unusual characteristics of the work location that contributed to the occurrence of this event by the Georgia Power Company technician involved. There are two root causes of the event:

1) The proximity of the conducting metal tag to the electrical terminal significantly increased the probability of this event occurring, and

2) Poor lighting in the panel contributed to the technician's inability to recognize the terminal strip under the metal tag. There were no other unusual characteristics of the work location that contributed to the occurrence of this event.

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

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

E. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

The main feedwater system isolated and the AFW system actuated, as designed. Control room operators properly responded to stabilize SG water levels. No problems arose following the trip that prevented operators from transitioning the plant to stable operation in Mode 3. Based on these considerations, there was no adverse effect on plant safety or on the health and safety of the public as a result of this event.

F. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

1) The fuse was replaced and metal tags near terminal strips in the Unit 1 stator cooling water/hydrogen seal oil panel were removed. Unit 2 tags will be removed during the next appropriate unit outage. The panel's interior light will be replaced when the unit is shutdown.

2) An event notice was issued to caution applicable personnel regarding the electrical shock hazard associated with the use of metal tags near terminal strips.

3) A review for similar applications of metal tags in other areas of the plant will be completed by February 28, 1997.

4) A review of the design of the stator cooling water panel will be performed by February 1, 1997, to determine if additional circuit redundancy is desired for preventing the initiation of a turbine/reactor trip.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1) Failed Components:
None
2) Previous Similar Events:
None
3) Energy Industry Identification System Code:
Main Generator Stator Cooling System - TJ
Main Generator Hydrogen Cooling System - TK
Main Feedwater System - SJ
Auxiliary Feedwater System - BA