



Point Beach Nuclear Plant
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NPL 97-0287

May 21, 1997

Document Control Desk
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, DC 20555

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
SPECIAL REPORT
PBPN FIRE DOOR 106A DEGRADED CONDITION
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

The following report describes the condition of a fire door considered part of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP) fire protection design previously approved by the NRC. This report is submitted in accordance with PBNP requirements in the Fire Protection Evaluation Report (FPER). The FPER recently incorporated plant fire protection provisions previously contained in the Technical Specifications. These provisions include the reporting of inoperable fire protection equipment and are implemented by PBNP procedure OM 3.27, "Control of Fire Protection and Appendix R Safe Shutdown Equipment." In accordance with these plant documents, all fire barriers (including fire doors) protecting safety-related areas shall be operable. If an inoperable fire barrier is not restored to operable status within 7 days a special report to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is required describing the degraded condition and plans for restoration of the equipment.

Condition Description

On April 21, 1997, fire door 106A in the Diesel Generator Building, separating the mechanical equipment room from the Unit 2, B-train, 4KV switchgear room, was found in the open position (closed but not latched). The door closer was determined to be sticking and not providing sufficient force to automatically close and latch the door after personnel access through the doorway. The door could be manually closed and latched. Work Order 111114 was initiated to adjust the door closer. A condition report was not initiated and the fire door was not reported as inoperable. Fire rounds were not initiated in accordance with plant requirements in OM 3.27.

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On 5/19/97, during routine plant activities, personnel from the operations staff noted a work order on the door. The door had been in this condition for greater than 7 days without being restored to operable status. A fire watch and condition report were initiated immediately upon this discovery.

Significance

Fire door 106A separates a mechanical equipment room containing no safety-related equipment from the Unit 2, B-train, 4KV safety-related switchgear and related equipment. Unit 1 was in cold shutdown and Unit 2 in a defueled condition during the period fire door 106A door closer was inoperable. Fire door 106A and the fire barrier provide protection of the safety related equipment from potential damage from a fire exposure in the mechanical equipment room.

Fire door operability, as defined in OM 3.27, includes a fire door being able to automatically close and latch. Fire doors that do not latch have the potential of swinging open during a fire allowing the fire to spread between adjacent areas. Fire door 106A swings out from the switchgear room it was installed to protect. A fire in the mechanical equipment room would likely have forced the door against the door stops to the closed position.

It is common practice at PBNP to check doors closed after passing through them. Although the door did not automatically latch closed, plant personnel would have likely manually closed and latched the door. The door is considered operable as a fire barrier when in the closed and latched position. Given these circumstances, this degraded fire door condition over a period beyond 7 days presented little increased fire risk to the safety-related equipment and had no affect on plant safe shutdown capability. This fire barrier is not required to provide fire protection separation for safe shutdown capability under 10 CFR 50 Appendix R, Section III.G or III.L.

Actions Taken

A fire watch and condition report were initiated immediately upon discovery by the operations staff. Additional corrective actions outlined in OM 3.27 were applied. The work order was reviewed and restoration expedited. This 30 day report was initiated as required by existing plant fire protection program requirements.

Cause

Fire door 106A was considered inoperable because the door closer was sticking and required maintenance and adjustment. Personnel discovering the condition were unaware of the requirements for fire doors in the FPER and OM 3.27, and did not consider the door inoperable because the closer required adjustment. The condition was not reported promptly under the existing corrective action program and therefore a fire watch was not initiated and the door not restored to full operable status within 7 days from identifying the degraded condition.

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Corrective Actions and Plan for Restoration

Work Order 111114 was completed. The door closer was adjusted and door tested. Fire door 106A has been restored to operable status.

Plant personnel will be informed of the operability requirements for fire doors and need to report fire door degradation under the condition reporting system.

Please contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Douglas F. Johnson, Manager
Regulatory Services and Licensing

TGM/iam

cc: NRC Regional Administrator
NRC Resident Inspector