

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1) PLANT VOGTLE - UNIT 1		DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 4 2 4	PAGE (3) 1 OF 4
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TITLE (4)
INADEQUATE CONTROL OF EFFLUENT MONITOR ALARM SETPOINTS LEADS TO TECH SPEC VIOLATION

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 NAMES		DOCKET NUMBER(S)
0 4	1 1	8 8	8 8	0 1 1	0 0	0 5	1 1	8 8			0 5 0 0 0
THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR § (Check one or more of the following) (11)											

OPERATING MODE (9) 1	20.402(b)	20.405(c)	50.73(a)(2)(iv)	73.71(b)
POWER LEVEL (10) 1,0,0	20.405(a)(1)(iii)	50.38(c)(1)	50.73(a)(2)(v)	73.71(c)
	20.405(a)(1)(iv)	50.38(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(vi)	OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text NRC Form 366A)
	20.405(a)(1)(v)	X 50.73(a)(2)(iii)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)(A)	
	20.405(a)(1)(vi)	50.73(a)(2)(iv)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)(B)	
	20.405(a)(1)(vii)	50.73(a)(2)(v)	50.73(a)(2)(ix)	

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME W. E. Burns, Nuclear Licensing Manager - Vogtle	TELEPHONE NUMBER AREA CODE: 4 0 4 NUMBER: 5 2 6 - 7 0 1 4
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COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NRC	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NRC

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE) NO

EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)

MONTH	DAY	YEAR

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

On April 11, 1988, the alert alarm and the high alarm setpoints for the Turbine Building Drain Effluent Monitor 1RE-0848 were found to be set too high. This inoperable condition existed since the monitor was returned to service on March 9, 1988 and allowed the applicable Technical Specification action statement requirements to be exceeded.

Historically, on December 7, 1987 the alarm setpoints for 1RE-0848 were set "artificially" high to prevent spurious alarms while the monitor was out of service (OOS). These temporary alarm setpoints were entered into the Digital Radiation Monitoring System (DRMS) Critical Parameters Book and subsequently used for setpoint verification per plant procedures when 1RE-0848 was returned to service on March 9, 1988.

This event occurred due to inadequate administrative controls of the alarm setpoints for the effluent radiation monitors.

Corrective actions include entering the correct setpoints, checking the other operable monitors for the correct setpoints, and providing adequate setpoint controls in a Standing Order until the controlling plant procedure is revised. The procedure revision is scheduled to be completed by May 15, 1988.

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

A. REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT

This report is required per 10 CFR 50.73 (a)(2)(i). The setpoints of a plant effluent monitor were found to be above the required values for approximately one (1) month without being considered inoperable. Therefore, the Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) and the associated action statement requirements of Technical Specification 3.3.3.9 were not met. This is considered a deviation from the Technical Specifications.

B. UNIT STATUS AT TIME OF EVENT

At the time of discovery of the subject condition, Unit 1 was in Mode 1 (Power Operation) with the reactor operating at approximately 100% of rated thermal power.

C. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

On April 11, 1988 the Plant Effluent Radiation Monitor System (PERMS) alarm setpoints were being reviewed by a Chemistry supervisor. At approximately 0700 CDT it was discovered that the setpoints for the Turbine Building Drain (Floor Drains) Liquid Effluent Monitor (1RE-0848) were incorrect. The alert alarm setpoint should be 8.0 E-7 and the high alarm setpoint should be 4.0 E-6; however, the alert alarm setpoint was 8.0 E + 5 and the high alarm setpoint was 4.0 E + 6. After the correct setpoints were entered, a deficiency card was initiated to document the problem and Plant Management was notified. The setpoints for the other operable PERMS monitors were immediately checked and found to be set properly.

An investigation was conducted to determine how long the liquid effluent monitor 1RE-0848 had been operating with the incorrect alarm setpoints and if there were any radioactive releases from the Turbine Building Drains. It was determined that on December 7, 1987, the alarm setpoints had been changed to prevent spurious alarms while the monitor was out of service. The Digital Radiation Monitoring System (DRMS) Critical Parameters Book was updated for the setpoint changes per plant procedure 34225-C. On that date the monitor was considered inoperable under LCO 1-87-0825 and remained inoperable until March 9, 1988. On March 9, 1988 steps were taken to place the monitor back into service. In accordance with plant procedure, 34226-C, the monitor parameters were verified to be equivalent to the data in the "DRMS Critical Parameters Book" and a channel check and source check were completed. It was then reported to the Shift Supervisor (SS) that liquid effluent monitor 1RE-0848 was ready for operation, without realizing the setpoints were artificially high.

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

The SS cleared the LCO and declared the monitor operable. The monitor operated from March 9, 1988 to April 11, 1988 with the alarm setpoints above the required values. Since the monitor should have been considered inoperable, the Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) and the associated action statement requirements of Technical Specification 3.3.3.9 were not met.

The radiation concentration data from March 9, 1988 to April 11, 1988 for 1RE-0848 was reviewed and found to be less than the required setpoints. Also the Steam Generator (SG) Blowdown Monitor data and the composite sample collection data did not indicate any evidence of a primary to secondary system leakage. Therefore, it was concluded that radioactive liquid effluent in excess of the liquid effluent monitor alarm setpoints was not released via the process stream monitored by 1RE-0843.

D. CAUSE OF EVENT

This event occurred because the standard policy and administrative controls of the PERMS setpoints were not adequate. There were no provisions in the plant procedure, 34225-C, "Operation of the DRMS Computer System", to address the abnormal condition of correcting the "artificially" high setpoints prior to returning the monitor to service.

E. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

The purpose of this monitor, 1RE-0848, is to continuously monitor the secondary side liquid drains for activity released in the event of primary to secondary system leakage.

A review was conducted of the process radiation concentration data for 1-RE-0848 from March 9, 1988 until April 11, 1988, when the setpoints were correctly established. All concentration data was less than the actual required setpoints. A review of the data for the Steam Generator Blowdown Monitor and the composite sample collection did not indicate any evidence of primary to secondary system leakage. It is, therefore, concluded that radioactive liquid effluent in excess of the normal liquid effluent monitor alarm setpoint was not released via the process stream monitored by 1-RE-0848. Therefore, neither plant safety nor the health and safety of the public was affected by this event.

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F. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The corrective actions taken include the following:

1. The setpoints for IRE-0848 were reset to the required values, High Alarm - 4.0E-6 and Alert Alarm - 8.0E-7, at the time of discovery of this event.
2. The setpoints for the other operable monitors were checked. All the other monitors were at the correct setpoint values.
3. A review of the process radiation concentration data for liquid effluent monitor IRE-0848 was conducted for the time period of March 9, 1988 until April 11, 1988. The data indicated that the radiation activity was less than the alert and high alarm setpoint values.
4. All appropriate chemistry personnel have been briefed on this event.
5. All out of service monitors and any temporary modifications to their setpoints are identified (or flagged) in an out of service logbook. Chemistry supervision will review the actual monitor setpoints prior to informing the Shift Supervisor (SS) that a monitor is ready to be returned to service. This will be accomplished by a Laboratory Standing Order (LSO) which was issued on May 4, 1988. The LSO will remain in effect until procedure 34225-C has been revised and the training of appropriate chemistry technicians and chemistry supervision has been completed.
6. Plant procedure 34225-C, "Operation of the DRMS Computer System", is being revised to strengthen the administrative controls when monitors are taken out of service or returned to service. This action is scheduled for completion by May 31, 1988.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Failed Component Identification
None
2. Previous Similar Event
None
3. Energy Industry Identification System Code
Radiation Monitoring System - IL

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Executive Department



Georgia Power

the southern electric system

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May 11, 1988

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

PLANT VOGTLE - UNIT 1
NRC DOCKET 50-424
OPERATING LICENSE NPF-68
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT
INADEQUATE CONTROL OF EFFLUENT MONITOR
ALARM SETPOINTS LEADS TO TECH SPEC VIOLATION

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i), Georgia Power Company is submitting a Licensee Event Report (LER) concerning a deviation from the plant's Technical Specifications.

Sincerely,

R. P. McDonald
Executive Vice President,
Nuclear Operations

PAH/lm

Enclosure: LER 50-424/1988-011

c: (see next page)

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
May 11, 1988
Page Two

c: Georgia Power Company
Mr. P. D. Rice
Mr. G. Bockhold, Jr.
GO-NORMS

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dr. J. N. Grace, Regional Administrator
Mr. J. B. Hopkins, Licensing Project Manager, NRR (2 copies)
Mr. J. F. Rogge, Senior Resident Inspector-Operations, Vogtle

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