



OCT 16 1998

L-98-226  
10 CFR § 73.71  
10 CFR § 50.73

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

Re: Turkey Point Units 3 and 4  
Docket Nos. 50-250/251  
Reportable Event: 1998-005-00  
Date of Event: September 24, 1998  
Suspension of Safeguards During  
Severe Weather Due to Personnel Safety

The attached Licensee Event Report 1998-005 is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR § 73.71 and 50.73 to provide notification of the subject event.

This letter and the attachment do not contain safeguards information as defined by 10 CFR 73.21.

Very truly yours,

R. J. Hovey  
Vice President  
Turkey Point Nuclear Plant

CLM  
Attachment

cc: Regional Administrator, USNRC Region II  
Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC, Turkey Point Nuclear Plant

9810230224 981016  
PDR ADOCK 05000250  
S PDR

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**

(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)

Estimated burden per response to comply with this mandatory information collection request: 50 hrs. Reported lessons learned are incorporated into the licensing process and fed back to industry. Forward comments regarding burden estimate to the 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. If an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

FACILITY NAME (1)  Turkey Point Unit 3		DOCKET NUMBER (2)  05000250	PAGE (3)  Page 1 of 4
--	--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------

TITLE (4)  
  
Suspension of Safeguards During Severe Weather Due to Personnel Safety

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
09	24	1998	1998	005	00	10	16	1998	Turkey Point Unit 4	05000251
									FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER

OPERATING MODE (9)  5	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 5: (Check one or more) (11)										
	20.2201(b)			20.2203(a)(2)(v)			50.73(a)(2)(i)			50.73(a)(2)(viii)	
POWER LEVEL (10)  000	20.2203(a)(1)			20.2203(a)(3)(ii)			50.73(a)(2)(ii)			50.73(a)(2)(x)	
	20.2203(a)(2)(i)			20.2203(a)(3)(iii)			X 50.73(a)(2)(iii)			X 73.71	
20.2203(a)(2)(ii)			20.2203(a)(4)			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  Craig Mowrey, Compliance Specialist	TELEPHONE NUMBER (include Area Code)  (305) 246 - 6204
---	--

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

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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-spaced typewritten lines) (16)

At 0506 on Thursday, September 24, 1998, Turkey Point declared an Unusual Event as a result of a hurricane warning issued by the National Hurricane Center. Unit 3, which had been shut down on Monday, September 21, 1998, for a refueling outage, was in Mode 5. Unit 4 was in Mode 1 at 100% power until 1945 on September 24, 1998 at which time power was reduced to 50% and remained there throughout the storm. At 2250 on September 24, 1998, the NRC was notified of the potential suspension of safeguards measures due to the proximity of Hurricane Georges and the resultant severe weather. A compensatory guard post for an intrusion detection system was temporarily suspended during the early morning hours of September 25, 1998 since the severe storms associated with Hurricane Georges were determined to be potentially life threatening. At 0840, the compensatory guard post was permanently restored due to the termination of the severe weather conditions. At 1131 on September 25, 1998, the hurricane warning was downgraded to a tropical storm warning and the Unusual Event was terminated.

This event was reportable under 10 CFR 73, Appendix G I. (c) and 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(iii).

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

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	
Turkey Point Unit 3	05000250	1998	005	00	Page 2 of 4

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

I. EVENT DESCRIPTION

At 0506 on Thursday, September 24, 1998, Turkey Point declared an Unusual Event as a result of a hurricane warning issued by the National Hurricane Center for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties, Florida. The warning area included the Turkey Point site in southern Miami-Dade County. At the time, Unit 3, which had been shut down on Monday, September 21, 1998, for a refueling outage, was in Mode 5, and Unit 4 was in Mode 1 at 100% power. As of the time of the warning issuance, the hurricane was predicted to arrive in the Miami area during the day on Friday, September 25, 1998. Site emergency facilities were not activated; however, plans were completed for the manning of these facilities in preparation of the storms approach. The off-site Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) was manned in the afternoon of September 24, 1998, for additional support and monitoring of the storm.

Unit 3 outage work was stopped at 1700 on Tuesday, September 22, 1998. Preparations were already underway for the potential arrival of Hurricane Georges in accordance with Off-normal Operating Procedure, 0-ONOP-103.3, Severe Weather Preparations. Unit 4 continued to remain at 100% power until 1945 on September 24, 1998 at which time power was reduced to 50% in preparation for the approaching storm. The decision to reduce to 50% power was made for several reasons: 1) it placed Unit 4 in a condition where it would be easier to shut down should the hurricane approach the site, 2) it placed Unit 4 in a condition where only one main feedwater pump was required based on the potential for high winds and an increased potential for loss of a non-vital 4kV bus supplying power to one of the main feedwater pumps (this non-vital bus is susceptible to heavy weather effects), and 3) it placed Unit 4 in a condition where it could handle an increase in cooling canal grasses into the intake system created by heavy rains, thereby increasing the potential for clogging of the intake cooling water strainers. Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure (EPIP) 20106, Natural Emergencies, was in effect and provided the operating unit shut down criteria if projected onsite winds reached hurricane force. For Category 1 or 2 hurricanes, EPIP 20106 requires units operating in Modes 1, 2, or 3 to be placed in Mode 3 (Hot Standby) within two hours before the projected onset of sustained hurricane force winds (75 mph) at the site. For Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricanes, EPIP 20106 requires units operating in Modes 1, 2, or 3 to be placed in Mode 4 (Hot Shutdown) within two hours before the projected onset of sustained hurricane force winds at the site. Hurricane Georges' path was such that sustained hurricane force winds were not projected for the Turkey Point site. Maximum sustained winds at Turkey Point during passage of the storm were approximately 45 mph, with gusts as high as 55 mph. In accordance with EPIP 20106, Turkey Point Unit 4 was able to remain at approximately 50% power throughout the hurricane warning and Unit 3 remained in Mode 5 with outage activities suspended.

At 2135 on September 24, 1998, Turkey Point was notified of a Tornado warning resulting from the weather associated with Hurricane Georges. Due to the proximity of Hurricane Georges and the resultant potential for lightning strikes and tornadoes (potentially life-threatening weather conditions), a certain portion of a safeguards measure pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55, requiring a protected area perimeter intrusion detection system, was suspended in accordance with the Turkey Point Physical Security Plan. Specifically, as squalls passed through the area, a compensatory guard post for an intrusion detection system was temporarily suspended. At 2250 on September 24, 1998, the NRC was notified of the potential suspension of safeguards measures required by 10 CFR 73.55. At 0005 on September 25, 1998, and at various times throughout the early morning hours until 0840, the compensatory guard post was suspended and restored, as dictated by the weather conditions. The longest period of time for suspension of the compensatory guard post was 2 hours and 44 minutes. At 0840, the compensatory guard post was permanently restored due to the cessation of the severe weather conditions. Access control to the protected and vital areas was not suspended during this event.



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

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
Turkey Point Unit 3	05000250	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	Page 3 of 4
		1998	- 005	- 00	

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

At 1131 on September 25, 1998, the hurricane warning for the area including the Turkey Point site was downgraded to a tropical storm warning and the Unusual Event was downgraded to a non-emergency classification. Plant walkdowns identified no damage to plant equipment. The NRC Region II State Liaison Officer coordinated with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials and Turkey Point regarding offsite radiological emergency preparedness. After discussion and review, FEMA concluded that there was reasonable assurance that state and local government organizations could respond in the event of an incident at the Turkey Point site. At 1500, Unit 4 started back to 100% power.

## II. CAUSE OF THE EVENT

The cause of the event was severe weather associated with the effects of Hurricane Georges including strong winds, direct lightning strikes in the vicinity of Turkey Point, and heavy rains. Additionally, a tornado warning was in effect in the vicinity of the plant.

## III. ANALYSIS OF THE EVENT

10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(iii) - Any natural phenomenon or other external condition that posed a threat to the safety of the nuclear power plant or significantly hampered site personnel in the performance of duties necessary for the safe operation of the nuclear power plant.

Hurricane Georges was classified as a Category 1 storm in its approach to Florida with sustained winds of 75 mph and peak gusts of 90 mph. It was expected to strengthen to a Category 2 storm prior to its arrival in the Florida area. Even though Turkey Point did not incur a direct hit of the hurricane the surrounding tropical storm weather exhibited strong winds and rains with direct lightning strikes. The severe weather required the intermittent removal of an outdoor security compensatory guard post. The guard was removed from the security post to protect the individual from this external weather condition in accordance with the Turkey Point Physical Security Plan. The severe weather significantly hampered the guard from performing the security duty. All other security features of the Turkey Point Physical Security Plan remained in effect during the severe weather. As each weather squall subsided, the guard was reposted. This condition existed on and off for approximately 8 hours as the severe weather moved through the area.

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

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
Turkey Point Unit 3	05000250	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	Page 4 of 4
		1998	005	00	

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

10 CFR 73, Appendix G I.(c) - Any failure, degradation, or the discovered vulnerability in a safeguard system that could allow unauthorized or undetected access to a protected area, material access area, vital area, or transport for which compensatory measures have not been employed.

As squalls resulting from Hurricane Georges passed through the area, a compensatory guard post for an intrusion detection system was temporarily suspended. The guard post was in place at the time as a compensatory measure since this portion of the physical protection system had failed previously and was not a result of the storm. All other aspects of the physical protection system and security organization remained in effect throughout the duration of the severe weather. No unauthorized access was gained to the protected area or any vital area.

10 CFR 50.54(x) permits licensees to take reasonable action in an emergency even though the action may depart from the license conditions or plant technical specifications.

FPL reported the suspension of safeguards as a 50.54(x). Upon further evaluation, it was determined that 10 CFR 50.54(x) was not applicable in this situation since the Turkey Point Physical Security Plan contained provisions for severe weather conditions and the need to protect employees from these conditions. Therefore, Turkey Point remained within the condition of its license with respect to the Physical Security Plan.

All other aspects of the physical protection system and security organization remained in effect throughout the duration of the severe weather. No unauthorized access was gained to the protected area or vital area. Therefore, the condition of intermittently removing a security guard post associated with the effects of Hurricane Georges did not constitute an unreasonable risk to the public health and safety.

IV. CORRECTIVE ACTION

The abnormally severe weather was determined to be potentially life threatening for a person exposed in a compensatory guard position. Each suspension of the compensatory guard post and its reposting was reported to the Turkey Point control room and logged. As soon as the severe weather squalls subsided, the compensatory measure was fully instituted.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Similar occurrence:

LER #92-009 dated September 23, 1992, Hurricane Andrew at Turkey Point.