

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1) Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3	DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 3 8 2	PAGE (3) 1 OF 0 4
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TITLE (4) Missed Gas Decay Tank Sample Due to Plugged Sample Injection Syringe

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)																																													
08	19	87	87	030	0109	30	8	8	N/A		0 5 0 0 0																																													
<table border="1" style="width:100%"> <tr> <td colspan="2">OPERATING MODE (9)</td> <td colspan="10">THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR § 1.71 (Check one or more of the following) (11)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">1</td> <td>20.402(a)</td> <td>20.406(a)</td> <td>50.73(a)(2)(ix)</td> <td>73.71(b)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">POWER LEVEL (10) 01915</td> <td>20.406(a)(1)(i)</td> <td>50.36(a)(1)</td> <td>50.73(a)(2)(ix)</td> <td>73.71(c)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td>20.406(a)(1)(ii)</td> <td>50.36(a)(2)</td> <td>50.73(a)(2)(ix)</td> <td rowspan="4">OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td>20.406(a)(1)(iii)</td> <td>X 50.73(a)(2)(i)</td> <td>50.73(a)(2)(ix)(A)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td>20.406(a)(1)(iv)</td> <td>50.73(a)(2)(ii)</td> <td>50.73(a)(2)(ix)(B)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td>20.406(a)(1)(v)</td> <td>50.73(a)(2)(iii)</td> <td>50.73(a)(2)(ix)</td> </tr> </table>												OPERATING MODE (9)		THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR § 1.71 (Check one or more of the following) (11)										1		20.402(a)	20.406(a)	50.73(a)(2)(ix)	73.71(b)	POWER LEVEL (10) 01915		20.406(a)(1)(i)	50.36(a)(1)	50.73(a)(2)(ix)	73.71(c)			20.406(a)(1)(ii)	50.36(a)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(ix)	OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)			20.406(a)(1)(iii)	X 50.73(a)(2)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(ix)(A)			20.406(a)(1)(iv)	50.73(a)(2)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(ix)(B)			20.406(a)(1)(v)	50.73(a)(2)(iii)	50.73(a)(2)(ix)
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LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME R.E. Allen, Chemistry Department Head	TELEPHONE NUMBER 5 0 4 4 6 4 - 3 1 2 9
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COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUF TURER	REPORTABLE TO NPROS	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUF TURER	REPORTABLE TO NPROS

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)	MONTH	DAY	YEAR

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

At 1330 hours on August 19, 1987, Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3 was operating at 95% power when Operations personnel discovered that the 0900 hours Gas Decay Tank (GDT) hydrogen and oxygen samples had not been analyzed within four hours from sampling (i.e., by 1300 hours). Action Requirement 38 of Technical Specification (TS) Table 3.3-13 requires the hydrogen sample to be analyzed within four hours from sample isolation. Action Requirement 40 of the same TS requires oxygen to be sampled and analyzed once per four hours. Thus, the plant was in a condition prohibited by TS from 1300 to 1330 hours.

The root cause of this event was a plugged sample injection syringe for the Gas Chromatograph. Contributing to this was a failure in communication between Chemistry and Operations personnel which prevented securing the Waste Gas Holdup System (WGHS) Compressors prior to 1300 hours to place the plant in a mode in which the samples were not required. The syringe was repaired. Chemistry personnel were counseled. A Station Modification has been implemented to replace the installed automatic sampling system. The WGHS was secured at 1330 hours and subsequent GDT samples showed normal and expected results. There was, therefore, no safety significance to this event.

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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

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		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER		
		87	030	01	02	OF 04

TEXT (if more space is required, use additional NRC Form 365A's) (17)

At 1330 hours on August 19, 1987, Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3 was operating at 95% power when Operations personnel were notified that the 0900 hours on-service Gas Decay Tank (GDT) (EIIS Identifier WE-TK) hydrogen and oxygen grab samples had not been analyzed within four hours from sampling (i.e., by 1300 hours). Action Requirement 38 of Technical Specification (TS) Table 3.3-13 requires the hydrogen sample from the on-service GDT be analyzed within four hours from sample isolation. Action Requirement 40 of the same TS requires oxygen from the on-service GDT to be sampled and analyzed once per four hours. Thus, the plant operated on a condition prohibited by TS from 1300 hours until 1330 hours when Waste Gas Holdup System (WGHS) (EIIS Identifier WE) operations were suspended.

TS 3.3.3.11 provides the Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO) for radioactive gaseous effluent monitoring instrument channels shown in TS Table 3.3-13. The WGHS Explosive Gas Monitor (EGM) (EIIS Identifier WE-MON), the installed automated means of sampling the WGHS, has been out-of-service since March 1985. Consequently, Action Requirements 38 and 40 of TS Table 3.3-13 have been applicable during periods of WGHS operation. Station Modification 818 has been implemented to replace the installed gas monitors.

The root cause of this event was a plugged sample injection syringe for the Gas Chromatograph (EIIS Identifier LQ-AI). The Gas Chromatograph is used by Chemistry technicians to manually analyze the WGHS grab samples. The sample injection syringe for the Gas Chromatograph is used to transfer gas from the sample collection vessel to the Chromatograph and had become plugged with septum material. When Chemistry technicians attempted to inject the gaseous grab sample into the Gas Chromatograph, the gas leaked out around the injection cylinder of the syringe instead of passing through the tip and into the Gas Chromatograph. This prevented performance of the analyses required by the TS, and was discovered after intensive troubleshooting of the Gas Chromatograph (including disassembly) detected no faults.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

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		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
					0 3	OF	0 4

TEXT (if more space is required, use additional NRC Form 306A's) (17)

A contributing cause in this event was a failure in communications between Chemistry and Operations personnel. At approximately 1130 hours, Operators were notified by Chemistry personnel that, "there were problems with the analyses." This message, delivered 90 minutes prior to expiration of the four hour time limit of Action Requirements 38 and 40, did not explicitly convey the fact that the samples could not be analyzed within the time limit. Had Operators been aware of this fact, the WGHS Gas Compressors (EHS Identifier WE-CMP) would have been secured prior to 1300 hours to place the plant in a mode in which the samples were not required. Chemistry personnel became preoccupied with troubleshooting the analysis equipment and did not communicate with the control room again until approximately 1330 hours.

Troubleshooting continued until the sample injection syringe for the Gas Chromatograph was cleaned, and the equipment was returned to an operable status at approximately 1900 hours. Grab samples from GDT 'C', the previously on-service GDT, were taken at 1300 hours, 1500 hours, and 1900 hours, and analyzed for hydrogen and oxygen at 1930 hours. The analysis results were normal and within required limits. Shift meetings were held with all Chemistry technicians to emphasize the importance of immediately notifying the Shift Supervisor or Control Room Supervisor of an inability to meet a TS sampling or analysis requirement. The Chemistry technicians involved in this event were counseled by Chemistry supervision.

Since GDT samples prior and subsequent to the missed sample were all normal and within required limits, and the WGHS was operated for only 30 minutes after expiration of the surveillance interval, there was no threat to the health or safety to the general public or plant personnel.

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		8 7	- 0 3 0	- 0 1	0 4	OF 0 4

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 365A's) (17)

SIMILAR EVENTS

Missed GDT samples were reported in LERs 85-11, 85-19 and 86-17.

PLANT CONTACT

R.E. Allen, Chemistry Department Head, 504/464-3129



LOUISIANA
POWER & LIGHT

WATERFORD 3 SES • PO. BOX B • KILLONA, LA 70066-0751

Ref: 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)

September 30, 1988

W3A88-0109
A4.05
QA

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

SUBJECT: Waterford 3 SES
Docket No. 50-382
License No. NPF-38
Reporting of Licensee Event Report

Attached is Licensee Event Report Number LER-87-030-01 for Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3. This Licensee Event Report is submitted pursuant to 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i).

Very truly yours,

N.S. Carns
Plant Manager - Nuclear

NSC/WEM:jc

Attachment

cc: R.D. Martin, NRC Resident Inspectors Office, INPO Records Center (J.T. Wheelock), E.L. Blake, W.M. Stevenson, D.L. Wigginton

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