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November 6, 1998

LCV-1281

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 1-98-006 AUXILIARY FEEDWATER TRAIN B BREAKER BUCKETS NOT SEISMICALLY QUALIFIED

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50 73, Southern Nuclear Operating Company hereby submits a Vogtle Electric Generating Plant licensee event report for a condition that was discovered on Unit 1 on October 8, 1998.

JBB/BHW/gmb

Enclosure: LER 1-98-006

 xc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company Mr. J. T. Gasser
Mr. M. Sheibani
SNC Document Management

> U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator Mr. D. H. Jaffe, Senior Project Manager, NRR Mr. J. Zeiler, Senior Resident Inspector, VEGP

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On October 7, 1998, personnel were performing thermal overload inspections in motor control center (MCC) 1BBF, when the buckets for breakers 6 and 8 were found to have unsecured seismic clips. An engineering evaluation determined that unsecured seismic clips could allow movement of the breakers during a seismic event sufficient to result in tripping. Breaker 6 provides power to close the normally open auxiliary feedwater (AFW) Train B pump miniflow valve. Breaker 8 provides power to open the normally closed AFW Train B pumphouse air inlet damper. Therefore, had a seismic event caused breakers 6 and 8 to trip, AFW Train B may not have been able to complete its intended safety function due to flow through the miniflow line and due to the effect of elevated pumphouse temperature. As a result, it is assumed that AFW Train B had been inoperable from September 1994, when the MCC was last accessed, until 1998, due to a lack of adequate seismic qualification, and may not have performed its function during a seismic event. This represents unit operation in a condition prohibited by the TS.

The cause of this event is believed to be personnel error in not adequately securing the seismic clips following the 5-year MCC cleaning in 1994. The seismic clips were secured and this event will be addressed in electrician's training.

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A. REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT

This report is required per 10 CFR 50.73 (a)(2)(i) because the unit operated in a condition prohibited by the Technical Specifications (TS) when a train of the auxiliary feedwater (AFW) system was inoperable for an extended period time.

B. UNIT STATUS AT TIME OF EVENT

At the time of the discovery of this event, Unit 1 was operating in Mode 1 (power operation) 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 October 7, 1998, personnel were performing thermal overload inspections in a motor control center (MCC). Upon opening buckets for 480 volt MCC 1BBF, the buckets for breakers 6 and 8 were found to have unsecured seismic clips. The clips were re-secured when work was completed. On October 8, 1998, a condition report was written to document the finding and a work order review found that the seismic clips were most likely not secured during the 5-year MCC cleaning in September 1994. A follow-up engineering evaluation determined that the unsecured clips could allow movement of the breakers during a seismic event sufficient to result in tripping breakers 6 and 8. Breaker 6 provides power to close the normally open AFW Train B pump miniflow valve. Breaker 8 provides power to open the normally closed AFW Train B pumphouse air inlet damper. Therefore, had a seismic event caused breakers 6 and 8 to trip, AFW Train B may not have been able to complete its intended safety function due to flow through the miniflow line and due to the effect of elevated pumphouse temperature. As a result, it is assumed that AFW Train B had been inoperable from September 1994 to 1998 due to a lack of adequate seismic qualification, and may not have performed its function during a seismic event. This represents unit operation in a condition prohibited by the TS.

D. CAUSE OF EVENT

The cause of this event is believed to be a cognitive personnel error in not adequately securing the clips following the 1994 preventive maintenance. The electrician that performed the 1994 work is no longer employed at the plant. There were no unusual characteristics of the work location that contributed to the occurrence of this error by the contractor electrician involved.

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E. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

The failure of the miniflow discharge line valve to close allows a significant amount of pump flow to bypass injection to the steam generators (SGs) and return to the condensate storage tank. The failure of the pumphouse air inlet damper to open would cause the AFW Train B pumphouse temperature to increase above the qualified temperature for pump operation. However, adequate flow remained available from other AFW pumps to allow the system to perform its intended safety function. Additionally, procedures are in place that would have assisted operators in identifying these types of malfunctions and taking appropriate actions to mitigate their affect. Furthermore, no seismic event occurred from 1994 to 1998 that challenged the breakers involved. 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 seismic clips were secured.
- 2) Other MCCs worked during the same period in 1994 will be inspected by December 20, 1998, to ensure their seismic clips are secured.
- This importance of securing seismic clips was addressed in plant electrician's continuing training. Training on this event for appropriate contractor electricians will be conducted prior to the next refueling outage.
- The procedure for MCC cleaning will be enhanced to emphasize the importance of securing the seismic clips.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1) Failed Components:

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