

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)
WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NUMBER (2) **05000482** PAGE (3) **1 OF 4**

TITLE (4)
Installation of Snubber With Defective Part Results in Violation of Technical Specification 3.7.8

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REV NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
12	07	1998	1998	0010	00	02	05	1999	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER

OPERATING MODE (9)		THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11)								
MODE 1		20 402(b)		20 405(c)		50 73(a)(2)(iv)		73 71(b)		
POWER LEVEL (10)	100 percent	20 405(a)(1)(i)		50 36(c)(1)		50 73(a)(2)(v)		73 71(c)		
		20 405(a)(1)(ii)		50 36(c)(2)		50 73(a)(2)(vii)		OTHER		
		20 405(a)(1)(iii)		X 50 73(a)(2)(i)		50 73(a)(2)(viii)(A)				
		20 405(a)(1)(iv)		50 73(a)(2)(ii)		50 73(a)(2)(viii)(B)				
		20 405(a)(1)(v)		50 73(a)(2)(iii)		50 73(a)(2)(x)				

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME: **Michael J. Angus**
 Manager, Licensing and Corrective Action

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code): **316-364-4077**

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
A	SB	SNB	P029	NO					

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES NO

EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)

MONTH DAY YEAR

ABSTRACT (16):

On March 27, 1990, snubber (serial number 14989) was installed on hanger BG21-R004. The snubber was reported by the vendor in September 1990 to contain a defective replacement part. Engineering evaluated the snubber as "use as is," until replacement. Though the snubber was later removed and refurbished, the defective part remained in the snubber, and the snubber was again installed on March 12, 1993 on support AB01-R036. On December 7, 1998, the snubber was removed and replaced with a new snubber. Subsequently, the snubber failed a 100% load test. This event constituted a historic violation of Technical Specification 3.7.8. The root cause of this event was a failure to maintain appropriate tracking of the defective part, and a communication failure concerning discrepancies related to the snubber. Corrective actions include entering this condition into the Corrective Action Program and continuing to stress the need for adequate communications among Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC) employees. This event had no impact on the health and safety of the public.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	
Wolf Creek Generating Station	05000482	1998	0010	00	2 OF 4

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

Plant Conditions Prior to the Event:

Mode --- 1
Power --- 100 percent
Temperature --- 586.6 °F
Pressure --- 2239 psig

Basis for Reportability:

NUREG-1022, Revision 1, "Event Reporting Guidelines 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73," Section 3.2.2(2), "Limiting Conditions for Operation," indicates that an LER is required if the conditions of a Technical Specification (TS) Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) are not met (condition existed for a time longer than permitted by the Technical Specifications). WCNOG "Technical Requirements Manual" 16.7.2 (formerly TS 3/4.7/8) requires "All snubbers shall be OPERABLE." The associated action gives 72 hours to either replace or restore the inoperable snubber to operable status, and either evaluate or declare the attached system inoperable and follow the appropriate ACTION statement for that system. Based on the cause of the failed snubber (manufacturing deficiency), it is reasonable to assume that the deficiency existed during the period of time the snubber was installed in the plant. Since this period was in excess of the 72 hour restoration time, the event in this LER is considered a historical violation of former TS 3.7.8, and is reportable under 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B).

Event Description:

On September 10, 1990, a snubber failed acceleration testing following refurbishment at WCGS. Upon disassembly of the snubber, the replacement rod and bearing assembly was found separated from the end plug. The assembly was returned to the vendor (Pacific Scientific) for analysis. Based on information obtained from testing and evaluation, on September 27, 1990, Pacific Scientific notified the NRC of a Part 21 defect. The vendor determined that inadequate staking of the rods in the end plugs, along with inadequate testing of this lot, caused the defective part. The defect was subsequently determined to be limited to the lot of 20 parts supplied to Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS).

Purchase Order (PO) 538880 was written to return 18 assemblies to the vendor for testing (two of the 20 had previously been scrapped); however, only 17 were actually returned. The remaining snubber (S/N 14989, in the Chemical and Volume Control System at location BG21-R004) could not be removed immediately since this snubber was in a high radiation area. Snubber 14989 was dispositioned "use as is" and left in place until the next refueling outage.

WCNOG, during this time, was pursuing a program to reduce the number of snubbers required at WCGS. Plant Modification Request 03390 provided the basis for deleting 12 snubbers from plant systems (including BG21-R004). Snubber S/N 14989 was removed from service on October 7, 1991. On February 6, 1992, snubber S/N 14989 was refurbished and functionally

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	
Wolf Creek Generating Station	05000482	1998	0010	00	3 OF 4

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

tested; however, the defective part was not replaced. On March 12, 1993, WR 60140-92 installed snubber S/N 14989 at AB01-R036, on Main Steam Isolation Valve ABHV-0006.

On December 7, 1998, while reviewing information for another issue, a WCNOC work planner identified that the defective parts associated with snubber 14989 were still in service in the plant. A Performance Improvement Request (PIR) was initiated (PIR 98-3707), and Snubber 14989 was removed from the plant on December 7, 1998. The snubber was removed and testing initiated. Upon completion of testing, PIR 99-0037 was initiated to investigate the reason for and develop/implement corrective actions for this snubber having been put back into the plant.

Root Cause:

The root cause of this event is inadequate written and verbal communication within and among organizations, resulting in the failure to maintain appropriate tracking of the defective snubber rod and bearing assembly parts that were identified in 1990. Snubber S/N 14989 was in BG21-R004 prior to being refurbished and put into the AB01-R036 location, still containing the defective rod and bearing assembly. The descriptions on the WR and the Engineering disposition were both weak and did not clearly identify the potential Part 21 condition of the snubber assembly. In addition, the work planners involved in this event did not appropriately communicate regarding the Part 21 condition.

Corrective Actions Taken:

- On December 7, 1998, snubber S/N 14989 was replaced with a new snubber.
- This event was discussed with the planners involved to enhance their understanding of the importance of effective communication.

Actions to Prevent Recurrence:

- Procedure AI 16C-007, "Work Order Processing Guide," will be revised to include additional information on identification of suspected 10 CFR Part 21 components. This revision will be completed by June 18, 1999.
- The current revision of Procedure AP 05-002, "Dispositions and Change Packages," provides direction to the engineer to initiate the appropriate action tracking document to track final disposition in addition to any interim actions for the item(s) being addressed. The procedure will be enhanced to better address the disposition of degraded or nonconforming parts being tracked. This action will be completed by June 18, 1999.

Safety Significance:

There is no safety significance associated with this event. An Engineering evaluation has concluded that failure of the snubber during a seismic event would not have impacted the ability of the associated Main Steamline Isolation Valve to perform its function, nor would it have caused failure of the associated line.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
Wolf Creek Generating Station	05000482	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	4 OF 4
		1998	0010	00	

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

Other Previous Occurrences:

WCNOC LER 96-006-00 reported that valve stem assemblies had been replaced with defective parts (roll pins rather than solid pins) from the Warehouse. The root cause of this event was determined to be inadequate design modification procedures that failed to address stored inventory and future procurement, rather than communication failures. The 1996 issue involved warehouse parts, as opposed to installed parts. In addition, the corrective actions for the 1996 LER were subsequent to the time the issue in this LER occurred (1990 - 1991). Therefore, corrective actions for this event would not have prevented the snubber issue addressed in this LER.