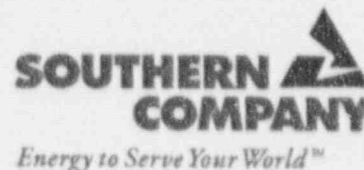


C. K. McCoy
Vice President
Vogtle Project

Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201
Tel 205.992.7122
Fax 205.992.0403



September 10, 1997

LCV-1090

Docket No. 50-425

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 2-97-S01
SECURITY SYSTEM DEGRADATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 73.71, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) hereby submits the enclosed report associated with an event which occurred at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant on August 16, 1997.

Sincerely,

C.K. McCoy
C. K. McCoy

CKM/TEW/AFS

Enclosure: LER 2-97-S01

cc: Georgia Power Company
Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Mr. M. Sheibani
NORMS

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
Mr. L. L. Wheeler, Senior Project Manager, NRR
NRC Senior Resident Inspector, Vogtle

9709160129 970910
PDR ADOCK 05000425
S PDR



LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS MANDATORY INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. REQUIRED LESSONS LEARNED ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE LICENSING PROCESS AND FED BACK TO INDUSTRY. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE INFORMATION AND 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.

FACILITY NAME (1)

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 2

DOCKET NUMBER (2)

500004251 OF 4

TITLE (4)

SECURITY SYSTEM DEGRADATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

| 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(S) |
| 08 | 16 | 97 | 97 | S01 | 010 | 09 | 10 | 97 | | 050000 |
| THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR * (Check one or more) (11) | | | | | | | | | | |
| OPERATING MODE (9) | | | 20.2201(f) | | 20.2203(a)(2)(v) | | 50.73(a)(2)(i) | | 50.73(a)(2)(vii) | |
| POWER LEVEL (10) | | | 20.2203(a)(1) | | 20.2203(a)(3)(i) | | 50.73(a)(2)(ii) | | 50.73(a)(2)(v) | |
| 100 | | | 20.2203(a)(2)(i) | | 20.2033(a)(3)(ii) | | 50.73(a)(2)(iii) | | X 73.71 | |
| | | | 20.2203(a)(2)(ii) | | 20.2033(c)(1) | | 50.73(a)(2)(iv) | | OTHER | |
| | | | 20.2203(a)(2)(iii) | | 50.36(c)(1) | | 50.73(a)(2)(v) | | Specify in Abstract below | |
| | | | 20.2203(a)(2)(iv) | | 50.36(c)(2) | | 50.73(a)(2)(vi) | | or in NRC Form 366A | |

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME

Mehdi Sheibani, Nuclear Safety and Compliance

TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)

AREA CODE

706 826-3209

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

| CAUSE | SYSTEM | COMPONENT | MANUFACTURER | REPORTABLE TO NPRDS | CAUSE | SYSTEM | COMPONENT | MANUFACTURER | REPORTABLE TO NPRDS |
|-------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|-------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| A | I/A | C/P/U | | N | A | I/A | M/O/D/E | | N |
| A | I/A | D/E/T | | N | A | I/A | 8/9 | | N |

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)

X NO

EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)

MONTH DAY YEAR

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-space typewritten lines) (16)

On the evening of August 16, 1997, the plant was experiencing severe weather in the form of heavy rain, high winds, hail, and lightning. A supervisory alarm from a vital area door was received and a multiplexer for several vital area door alarms failed off-line, disabling alarm functions from those doors. Over a period of time, compensatory posts were established for all of the failures involved. However, the inability to compensate for these failures within 10 minutes represented degradations that could have allowed unauthorized or undetected access into a vital area.

The cause of this event was severe weather that resulted in security system degradations which were not compensated within 10 minutes. These degradations could not be timely compensated because of personnel safety concerns resulting from the weather. In addition, normal shift manning does not allow for timely compensation for the number of failures that occurred. Following completion of repairs and testing, all components were returned to service and compensatory posts were terminated.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|------|
| FACILITY NAME (1) | DOCKET NUMBER (2) | LER NUMBER (6) | | | PAGE (3) | |
| | | YEAR | SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | REVISION NUMBER | | |
| Vogtle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 2 | 05000425 | 97 | -S01 | -00 | 2 | OF 4 |

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

A. REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT

This report is required per 10 CFR 73.71 (b)(1) and 10 CFR 73, Appendix G. The failure to compensate for the loss of security system devices within 10 minutes represents a degradation that could have allowed unauthorized or undetected access into a vital area (VA).

B. UNIT STATUS AT TIME OF EVENT

At the time of this event, Unit 2 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 the evening of August 16, 1997, the plant was experiencing severe weather in the form of heavy rain, high winds, hail, and lightning. During this storm, security system components were generating false, nuisance alarms, and security personnel were responding and compensating for these alarms in accordance with the Security Plan. When rain/hail began to obscure camera visibility, a patrol was initiated to observe the protected area (PA) perimeter. The patrol also compensated for the loss of perimeter alarm multiplexers when they experienced communications failures. This patrol was continuous except when interrupted by brief periods of intense storm activity.

At 1920 EDT, the security alarm stations received a supervisory alarm from a Unit 2 vital area door. At 1928 EDT, a security officer responded to the scene in a patrol vehicle and saw that the door was closed, but was unable to investigate further due to the severe weather. At 1940 EDT, the officer entered the door and initiated compensatory actions.

At 1938 EDT, security alarm station operators were reviewing alarm printouts and discovered that a multiplexer for several Unit 2 VA door alarms had failed off-line at 1917 EDT, disabling the associated VA door alarms.

As a result of the failure to adequately respond to the initial VA door alarm within 10 minutes, and the failure to compensate for the multiplexer failure within 10 minutes, the NRC Operations Center was notified at 2023 EDT.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------|------|
| FACILITY NAME (1) | DOCKET NUMBER (2) | LER NUMBER (6) | | | PAGE (3) | |
| | | YEAR | SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | REVISION NUMBER | | |
| Vogtle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 2 | 05000425 | 97 | -S01 | -00 | 3 | OF 4 |

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

A recall of off duty security officers was initiated, and compensatory posts were established as security personnel became available. By 2132 EDT, all alarms were adequately compensated by roving patrols. By 2208 EDT, affected alarms had been compensated by security officer postings. At 2320 EDT, a search of the protected area and affected vital areas was completed with no evidence of attempted intrusion found.

Following completion of repairs and testing, the affected door and multiplexer were returned to service by 2134 EDT, on August 17, 1997. All compensatory posts were terminated.

D. CAUSE OF EVENT

The cause of this event was severe weather that resulted in numerous security system degradations which were not compensated within 10 minutes. All of the degradations could not be timely compensated due to personnel safety concerns caused by the severe weather. Also, the number of security personnel normally on shift cannot compensate for large numbers of failures.

E. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

Security personnel responded to alarms and system failures as promptly as concerns for personnel safety allowed and as recalled personnel arrived. Furthermore, a search of the affected protected and vital areas found no evidence of unauthorized intrusion during this period of time. 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) Compensatory actions were initiated as required per procedures.
- 2) A search of the affected areas found no evidence of attempted intrusion.
- 3) Following completion of resetting, repairing and testing, the affected VA door and multiplexer were returned to service by 2134 EDT, on August 17, 1997. All compensatory posts were terminated.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------|----|---|
| FACILITY NAME (1) Vogtle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 2 | DOCKET NUMBER (2) 05000425 | LER NUMBER (6) | | | PAGE (3) | | |
| | | YEAR | SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | REVISION NUMBER | | | |
| | | 97 | S01 | 00 | 4 | OF | 4 |

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 305A)(17)

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1) Failed Components:

Control I multiplexing system manufactured by Computrol Inc.

Multiplexer parts replaced include:

CDI common logic circuit board, part number 3000101

Fail Detect circuit board, part number 3000163

Modem circuit board, part number 30-0002-1

Coax switch, part number 60-0069-1

2) Previous Similar Events:

LER 50-424/1990-05S, dated 8-21-90.

LER 50-424/1990-11S, dated 12-7-90.

The corrective actions from these LERs were not applicable for the prevention of the event that occurred on August 16, 1997.

3) Energy Industry Identification System Code:

Security System - IA