

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1) Wolf Creek Generating Station										DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 4 8 2 1										PAGE (3) 1 OF 0 3																																																																																					
TITLE (4) Late Performance Of Unit Vent Sample As Required By Technical Specifications Caused By Personnel Error In Determining Sampling Requirements																																																																																																									
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																																																																																							
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OPERATING MODE (9)		1		THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 5. (Check one or more of the following) (11)																																																																																																					
POWER LEVEL (10)		1 0 0		20.402(b)						20.405(a)(1)(i)						20.405(a)(1)(ii)						20.405(a)(1)(iii)						20.405(a)(1)(iv)						20.405(a)(1)(v)						20.406(c)						50.73(a)(2)(iv)						50.73(a)(2)(v)						50.73(a)(2)(vi)						50.73(a)(2)(vii)						50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)						50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)						50.73(a)(2)(ix)						73.71(b)						73.71(c)						OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)					
NAME		Merlin G. Williams - Manager Plant Support																		AREA CODE		3 1 6		3 6 4		- 8 8 3		1																																																																													
COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)																																																																																																									
CAUSE		SYSTEM		COMPONENT		MANUFACTURER		REPORTABLE TO NRC		CAUSE		SYSTEM		COMPONENT		MANUFACTURER		REPORTABLE TO NRC																																																																																							
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)																		EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)		MONTH		DAY		YEAR																																																																																	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)																		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO																																																																																							

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

On February 6, 1989, it was discovered by a Chemistry Supervisor that a gaseous grab sample of the Unit Vent had not yet been obtained following a 15% change in Rated Thermal Power which occurred on February 4, 1989. This sampling is required by Technical Specification (T/S) 3.11.2.1. Although the T/S does not specify the required time frame for performing the sampling, an administrative guideline of 24 hours had been established. Upon discovery of this situation, a sample was promptly obtained and analyzed.

This event occurred as a result of cognitive personnel error by a shift chemistry technician. Based on discussions with another technician and a partial review of the T/S requirements, the individual believed that only charcoal and particulate sampling was necessary. This error was contrary to the requirements of the Chemistry Shift Turnover Checklist, which specified that a review of the T/S be performed to assure the sampling requirements are satisfied. The individual has been counseled regarding this error. This event and its consequences have been discussed in Chemistry Group meetings to ensure other Chemistry personnel understand the sampling requirements. The necessity for strict procedural compliance has been stressed to Chemistry technicians.

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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

APPROVED OMB NO. 3150-0104
EXPIRES: 8/31/88

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)		
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
Wolf Creek Generating Station	0500048289	—	005	—	00	02	OF 03

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

INTRODUCTION

On February 6, 1989, it was discovered that a gaseous grab sample of the Unit Vent [VL] had not yet been obtained following a 15% change in Rated Thermal Power which occurred on February 4, 1989. This sampling is required by Technical Specification (T/S) 3.11.2.1. Although the T/S does not specify the required time frame for performing the sampling, an administrative guideline of 24 hours had been established. Because this administrative guideline was not adhered to, this event is considered to be in violation of the plant's Technical Specifications, and is being reported pursuant to 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B).

DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

Technical Specification 3.11.2.1 requires that a gaseous grab sample of the Unit Vent be obtained "following shutdown, startup, or a THERMAL POWER change exceeding 15% of RATED THERMAL POWER within 1 hour period." This requirement is contained in Footnote 3 to Table 4.11-2, "Radioactive Gaseous Waste Sampling and Analysis Program", and does not specify an allowable time frame for the performance of this sampling and analysis. Consequently, an administrative guideline had been established requiring that the gaseous sampling and analysis be performed within 24 hours of the power change in order to satisfy this Surveillance Requirement. An additional footnote to this table, Footnote 7, requires that charcoal and particulate sampling be performed at least once per 24 hours for at least 7 days following each shutdown, startup or THERMAL POWER change exceeding 15% RATED THERMAL POWER within a 1-hour period.

On February 3, 1989, at 2252 CST, the unit entered Mode 2, Startup, from Mode 3, Hot Standby. The proper sampling was performed following this startup by the shift chemistry technician. During the chemistry technician turnover at 0700 on February 4, 1989, the on-coming technician was correctly informed that all the necessary sampling had been performed. Subsequently on day shift, reactor power as measured by the excore Nuclear Instrumentation System [IG] was increased by 15% within one hour. The Control Room operators notified the technician on duty of this power change. The technician performed the charcoal and particulate sampling required by Footnote 7 to Table 4.11-2. [It was subsequently determined that this was not actually a 15% change in Rated Thermal Power.] During shift turnover at 1900 CST on February 4, the chemistry technicians discussed the sampling requirements following power changes. During the discussion the technicians reviewed the T/S footnote concerning the charcoal and particulate sampling requirements (Footnote 7), but did not review the footnote concerning gaseous sampling requirements (Footnote 3). Following this review, it was concluded that gaseous sampling was only required following startup and shutdown.

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

Subsequently, during power ascension, reactor thermal power was increased by approximately 20% Rated Thermal Power between 2100 CST and 2200 CST on February 4, 1989. Based on the earlier T/S review and discussions held during the previous shift turnover, the technician believed that only the charcoal and particulate sampling was required. Consequently, this sampling was performed properly, but the gaseous grab sampling was not performed at that time.

On February 6, 1989, while reviewing a summary of the weekend Chemistry Laboratory activities, a Chemistry Supervisor discovered that the gaseous sampling of the Unit Vent had not yet been performed. Actions were promptly initiated to obtain and analyze the required sample. The results of the sample analysis indicated no unexpected radionuclides.

ROOT CAUSE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

This event occurred as a result of cognitive personnel error by a chemistry technician. This error was contrary to procedural requirements. The Chemistry Shift Turnover Checklist requires that if a power change has occurred, that Table 4.11-2, Footnote 3, be reviewed to assure that the sampling requirements are met. The individual involved in this incident believed that the Unit Vent grab sample was only required following startup or shutdown. Consequently, the individual believed incorrectly that all required sampling had been performed, and informed the on-coming shift technician that no further non-routine sampling was necessary.

Chemistry management has counseled this individual regarding this error. In addition, Chemistry management has discussed this event and its consequences in two Chemistry Group meetings to ensure Chemistry personnel are aware of and understand the sampling requirements. The necessity for strict procedural compliance has been stressed to the Chemistry technicians.

There have been no previous occurrences in which chemistry procedural requirements were not followed that resulted in a Technical Specification violation.

WOLF CREEK

NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATION

Bart D. Withers
President and
Chief Executive Officer

March 3, 1989

WM 89-0072

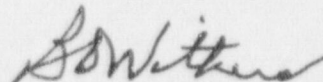
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Docket No. 50-482: Licensee Event Report 89-005-00

Gentlemen:

The attached Licensee Event Report (LER) is submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 50.73 (a) (2) (i) concerning a Technical Specification violation.

Very truly yours,



Bart D. Withers
President and
Chief Executive Officer

BDW/jad

Attachment

cc: B. L. Bartlett (NRC), w/a
E. J. Holler (NRC), w/a
R. D. Martin (NRC), w/a
D. V. Pickett (NRC), w/a

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