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Rick J. King
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October 28, 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
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Subject: River Bend Station - Unit 1
Docket No. 50-458
Special Report: Primary Containment Area Radiation Monitor

File No.: G9.5, G9.25.1.7

RBF1-99-0305
RBG-45155

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This special report is being submitted pursuant to River Bend Station (RBS) Technical Specification 3.3.3.1 required action B.1. This technical specification (TS) requires submittal of a special report when a primary containment area radiation monitor is inoperable for greater than 30 days. The recorder for the Division II primary containment area radiation monitor, RMS-RE16B, was inoperable from May 22, 1998 due to a recorder malfunction. This report is being submitted at this time because the recorder malfunction was not recognized as impacting operability until October 14, 1999.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

During a back panel deficiency walkdown by RBS operators on October 14, 1999, a deficiency sticker was found that identified the Primary Containment Area Radiation Monitor, RMS-RR16B, recorder drive mechanism as jammed. A review of the bases section for TS Table 3.3.3.1-1 item 9 indicated that continuous recording is required for the unit to be operable. RMS-RE16B was declared inoperable and a limiting condition for operation (LCO) was entered. RMS-RE16B was operable except for the recording feature, which malfunctioned.

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PDR ADOCK

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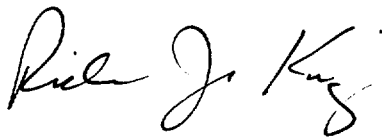
The maintenance action item (MAI) noted on the deficiency sticker was researched. The MAI was found to be cancelled. It is apparent that in May 1998, the impact of the malfunction of the recorder on the operability of the radiation monitor and the statement in the bases concerning continuous recording were not fully recognized. At that time, the recorder malfunction was determined to not affect the operability of the area radiation monitor itself. Continued plant operation is permitted with one or both primary containment area radiation monitors inoperable.

Prior to the identification of the problem, an engineering request to replace main control room recorders, including the recorders for radiation monitoring system detectors such as RMS-RE16B, had been initiated and was being implemented. The recorder for RMS-RE16B was replaced the week of October 18, 1999. RMS-RE16B was returned to an operable status on October 25, 1999.

This event is not safety significant. A redundant Primary Containment Area Radiation Monitor, RMS-RE16A, was operable, except for a three-day period in October, 1999 when its recorder was replaced, to provide the required safety function. RMS-RE16B was also operable except for the recording feature. Additionally, alternative monitoring methods are available via a site procedure for instances when both primary containment area radiation monitors are inoperable.

If there are any questions concerning this issue, please contact David Lorring at (225) 381-4157.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick J. King".

RJK/DLM

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CC:

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