

Vermont Yankee

3Q/2005 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

Significance:  Mar 31, 2005

Identified By: Self-Revealing

Item Type: FIN Finding

Technician Did Not Follow Non-Safety Related Maintenance Procedure Which Resulted in a Reactor Water Level and Power Perturbation

A very low safety significance, self-revealing finding was identified because an instrumentation and control (I&C) technician did not follow instructions contained in a maintenance procedure. Rather than isolating the air supply to condensate demineralizer system valve SP-52-E1C, the technician inadvertently isolated the air supply to an adjacent valve which ultimately resulted in a small reactor vessel level and power perturbation.

This finding is greater than minor since it is associated with the Configuration Control-Operating Equipment Lineup attribute of the Initiating Events Cornerstone and because it affects the associated Cornerstone Objective to limit the likelihood of those events that upset plant stability during power operations. In accordance with IMC 0609, Appendix A, "Significance Determination of Reactor Findings for At-Power Situations," the inspectors conducted an SDP Phase 1 screening. The inspectors determined that the finding is of very low safety significance since it does not contribute to the likelihood of a primary or secondary system loss of coolant accident, does not contribute to both the likelihood of a reactor trip and the likelihood that mitigating equipment or functions would not be available, and does not increase the likelihood of a fire or internal/external flood.

A contributing cause of this finding is related to the personnel subcategory in the cross-cutting area of human performance. The I&C technician did not apply the required self-checking techniques (i.e., did not read the valve identification tag to verify he was manipulating the correct valve) while attempting to close valve SP-52-E1C. (Section 1R04)

Inspection Report# : [2005002\(pdf\)](#)

Mitigating Systems

Significance: SL-IV Dec 31, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Entergy Did Not Notify the NRC of a Licensed Senior Operator's Medical Condition

The inspectors identified a Severity Level IV NCV of 10 CFR 50.74(c) because Entergy did not notify the NRC within 30 days of the identification of a medical condition that caused a licensed senior operator to fail to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 55.21. That medical condition ultimately required the NRC to issue a conditional [restricted] license. Specifically, Entergy became aware of a medical condition in March 2004 that caused a licensed senior operator to fail to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 55.21 and for which a conditional [restricted] license was required. However, Entergy did not notify the NRC of the medical condition until five months later, in August 2004.

Entergy's failure to report the medical condition to the NRC impacted the regulatory process, in that, between April and August 2004, the NRC was unaware of a medical condition that warranted issuance of a conditional [restricted] license. Because the finding impacted the regulatory process, it was dispositioned using the traditional enforcement process instead of the significance determination process. This issue has been entered into Entergy's corrective actions program.

Inspection Report# : [2004006\(pdf\)](#)

Significance:  Dec 17, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Provide Isolation of Normal Control Power Source for RCIC Steam Supply Line Isolation Valve

The team identified a non-cited violation (NCV) of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Section III.G.3 because VYNPS did not ensure electrical isolation of the normal control power source for the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) steam supply line isolation valve (MOV 13-15) when it is being operated in the alternate safe shutdown mode during an evacuation of the control room fire scenario.

This finding is greater than minor because it affected the Mitigating System Cornerstone of equipment reliability, in that closure of the RCIC

supply line isolation valve could result in RCIC failure during an alternate shutdown fire scenario. The finding is of low significance because the likelihood of occurrence of a fire in the control room that could damage the valve control wire to the RCIC supply line isolation valve is small, there are no significant combustibles in the area and no loss of post fire capability occurred.

Inspection Report# : [2004010\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Nov 09, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Availability of Power from Vernon Station

The team identified a non-cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50.63, "Loss of All Alternating Current Power," because the licensee had not completed a coping analysis for the period of time the alternate alternating current (AC) source (the Vernon Hydro-Electric Station) would be unavailable and had not demonstrated by test the time required to make the alternate source available for a station blackout involving a grid collapse. This issue was more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of Equipment Performance and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring availability, reliability, and capability of systems needed to respond to a station blackout. The issue screened as very low safety significance in Phase I of the SDP because it was a design deficiency that was not found to result in a loss of function. Specifically, the team found that the licensee's preliminary coping analysis, performed during the inspection, demonstrated a four-hour coping time which should be sufficient to envelope the time required to start and align the Vernon Station.

Inspection Report# : [2004008\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Nov 09, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Procedures for Assessing Off-site Power Operability

The team identified a non-cited violation of Technical Specifications 6.4.C, "Procedures," because the licensee failed to establish adequate procedures for determining the operability of the 115 kilovolt (kV) Keene line, which is designated as an alternate immediate access power source if the 345/115 kV auto transformer is lost. This issue was more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of Procedural Quality and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring availability, reliability, and capability of systems needed to respond to a loss of off-site power. The issue screened as very low safety significance in Phase I of the SDP because it was a design deficiency that was not found to result in a loss of function. Specifically, the team did not identify any instances where the lack of procedural guidance had resulted in an inadequate assessment of off-site power operability or the inoperability of the electrical system or any components.

Inspection Report# : [2004008\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Nov 09, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Degraded Relay Setpoint Calculations

The team identified a non-cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control," because the licensee used incorrect and non-conservative voltage values in calculations performed to assure that electrical equipment would remain operable under degraded voltage conditions. This issue was more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of Equipment Performance and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring availability, reliability, and capability of systems needed to respond to a design basis accident. The issue screened as very low safety significance in Phase I of the SDP because it was a design deficiency that was not found to result in a loss of function. Specifically, the team did not identify any instances where using the Technical Specification degraded voltage allowable setpoint values would have resulted in inoperable equipment.

Inspection Report# : [2004008\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Nov 09, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Cooling Water Supply Portion of RCIC Not Installed per Design Basis

The team identified a non-cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control," because the licensee did not implement measures to ensure that the design basis for the cooling water supply to the lube oil cooler of RCIC was correctly translated into the specifications, drawings, procedures, or instructions. Specifically, the installed pressure control valve in the lube oil cooler water supply line was not independent of air systems, and the installed piping between the pressure control valve and lube oil cooler did not contain a restricting orifice. This issue was more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of Equipment Performance and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the reliability of the RCIC system. The issue screened as very low safety significance in Phase I of the SDP because it was a design deficiency that was not found to result in a loss of function. This deficiency would not have resulted in the RCIC system becoming inoperable due to a loss of air to the lube oil cooler pressure control valve.

A contributing cause of this finding is related to the cross cutting area of Problem Identification and Resolution. The licensee had previously reviewed the failure positions of air-operated equipment and issued a report, "Compressed Air Systems," dated July 16, 1989. During this review, the licensee did not identify that the pressure control valve was not independent of the instrument air system.

Inspection Report# : [2004008\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Nov 09, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Correct Non-Conforming RCIC Pressure Control Valve

The team identified a non-cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, "Corrective Action," because the licensee failed to correct a longstanding non-conformance in the operation of pressure control valve PCV-13-23. The team determined through interviews with Vermont Yankee staff that during initial start-up testing, problems were identified with the automatic operation of this valve which affected its ability to properly supply cooling flow to the RCIC lube oil cooler. This issue was more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems attribute of Equipment Performance and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the reliability of the RCIC system. The issue screened as very low safety significance in Phase I of the SDP because it was a design deficiency that was not found to result in a loss of function. The licensee had implemented manual actions as a compensatory measure for the operation of PCV-13-23 through the addition of procedural steps.

Inspection Report# : [2004008\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Nov 09, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Implement Adequate Design Control for Condensate Storage Tank Temperature

The team identified a non-cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control," because the licensee had neither established the correct condensate storage tank (CST) temperature limit for use in the plant transient analyses nor translated the CST temperature limit into plant procedures. This issue was more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of Equipment Performance and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the reliability of the core spray system. The issue screened as very low safety significance in Phase I of the SDP because it was a design deficiency that was not found to result in a loss of function. Although available net positive suction head (NPSH) margin for the core spray pumps was lowered, adequate margin remained due to the conservatism that existed in other aspects of the licensee's NPSH analysis.

A contributing cause of this finding is also related to the cross-cutting area of Problem Identification and Resolution. The licensee identified this issue in December 2002, but concluded that the non-conservative CST temperature had little to no effect on the transient analyses.

Inspection Report# : [2004008\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Nov 09, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Revise Safe Shutdown Capability Analysis Report

The team identified a non-cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control," because between June 2001 to September 2004, the licensee did not adequately coordinate between the operations department and the engineering organization regarding procedure revisions that increased the length of time required to place the reactor core isolation cooling system in service from the alternate shutdown panels. This issue was more than minor because it was associated with the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of Human Performance and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the availability of the RCIC system. Furthermore, this finding resulted in the use of the December 1999 value of time to place RCIC in service from the alternate shutdown panel in documents submitted to the NRC as part of the Vermont Yankee Power Uprate Safety Analysis Report. The issue screened as very low safety significance in Phase I of the SDP because it was a design deficiency that was not found to result in a loss of function. Although the available time margin was lowered, sufficient margin remained to allow operator action to manually start the RCIC system prior to reactor level reaching the top of active fuel.

Inspection Report# : [2004008\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Nov 09, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Establish Adequate MOV Periodic Test Program

The team identified a non-cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XI, "Test Control," because the licensee had conducted motor-operated valve (MOV) diagnostic tests using procedures that did not include acceptance limits, which were correlated to and based on applicable (stem thrust and torque) design documents. Additionally, MOV diagnostic testing had been conducted solely from the motor control centers using test instrumentation that had not been validated to ensure its adequacy. The finding was more than minor because it affected the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone attribute of Equipment Performance and affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the availability, reliability, and capability of systems and components that respond to initiating events. Specifically, the unvalidated test method had the potential to affect the reliability of safety-related motor-operated valves. The issue screened as very low safety significance in Phase I of the SDP because it was a qualification deficiency that was not found to result in a loss of function. The team did not identify any examples of degraded or inoperable valves during the inspection and noted that the design basis calculations for the MOVs reviewed had available thrust margin of greater than 60 percent.

Inspection Report# : [2004008\(pdf\)](#)

Barrier Integrity

Emergency Preparedness

W
Significance: Oct 12, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: VIO Violation

Failure to ensure the means to provide early notification to those in the EPZ population who had, or desired to have, a TAR for areas lacking siren coverage.

In letter dated February 2, 2005, the NRC issued the Final Significance Determination for a White finding. The NOV in the letter indicated that as of September 23, 2004, the licensee failed to follow its emergency plan to establish the means to provide early notification and clear instruction to the populace within the plume exposure pathway EPZ. Specifically, a portion of the populace within the EPZ, who are outside of the range of sirens, did not have tone alert radios.

The issue is White because an emergency preparedness risk significant planning standard, namely, the ability to provide early notification and clear instruction to the populace within the plume exposure pathway EPZ was degraded.

The NRC performed a supplemental inspection in Inspection Report 05000271/2005007 issued on July 11, 2005. The inspectors determined that Entergy performed a comprehensive evaluation of the tone alert radio issue. Entergy's evaluation identified the primary root causes of the performance issue to be ineffective management control and oversight of the tone alert radio program. Entergy's extent of condition and cause review was acceptable in that other emergency preparedness functions were reviewed to ensure adequate formalized processes were being implemented to preclude deterioration of those functions. The primary corrective action was to develop and implement a formal process for the distribution, maintenance, and testing of the tone alert radios. The inspectors determined that the effectiveness reviews to ensure the adequacy of the correction actions were appropriate.

Inspection Report# : [2004009\(pdf\)](#)

Inspection Report# : [2005007\(pdf\)](#)

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Significance: Oct 12, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to assign continuous onshift capability to read the facility seismic monitoring system for emergency classification purposes.

The inspector identified a non-cited violation associated with emergency planning standard 10 CFR 50.47(b)(2) which was of very low safety significance. Specifically, the licensee failed to assign continuous onshift responsibilities for reading the facility seismic monitoring system, thereby affecting the ability to timely classify a seismic event which exceeded the operating basis earthquake (OBE).

The finding is greater than minor because it is associated with the EP cornerstone attribute of procedure quality and affects the EP cornerstone objective to ensure the adequate protection of the public health and safety.

Inspection Report# : [2004009\(pdf\)](#)

Occupational Radiation Safety

Public Radiation Safety

Physical Protection

[Physical Protection](#) information not publicly available.

Miscellaneous

Significance: SL-III Aug 27, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: VIO Violation

Did Not Keep Adequate Records, Follow Procedures, and Perform Physical Inventory of Special Nuclear Material

In a letter dated June 22, 2005, the NRC issues a Severity Level II violation Supplement III. Specifically between January 1980 and July 13, 2004, two irradiated fuel rod pieces were not in their proper location in the spent fuel pool as detailed in the inventory records. In addition, during that time you failed to ensure that either (1) the fuel rod pieces remained there; or (2) the records indicated the new location of the pieces after they moved. You also failed to conduct adequate inventories of the location of the two fuel pieces.

The inspectors identified an apparent violation of 10 CFR 74.19 because Entergy and its predecessor did not keep adequate special nuclear material inventory records of two spent fuel rod pieces, did not follow its written procedures when two spent fuel rod pieces were moved to a fuel storage liner, and did not conduct adequate periodic physical inventories of the two spent fuel rod pieces.

Because the two spent fuel rod pieces remained in the Vermont Yankee spent fuel pool, the entire time the apparent violation existed, there was no actual safety consequence of this apparent violation. Nevertheless, the NRC considers this apparent violation a potentially significant failure of Entergy's material and control accounting program. This failure could have resulted in these two spent fuel rod pieces being inappropriately included in a shipment of radioactive material to a low-level radioactive waste site.

Inspection Report# : [2004007\(pdf\)](#)

Last modified : November 30, 2005