

Farley 1

3Q/2007 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

Mitigating Systems

Significance:  Aug 24, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Promptly Identify the Complete Population of Service Water Valves Affected by the System's Corrosive Environment and Correct the Condition

The inspectors identified a non-cited violation (NCV) of 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, Corrective Action, for a failure to promptly identify and correct a condition adverse to quality. In November 2004, the licensee identified that the carbon steel valves in the service water system were susceptible to corrosion which caused the valve disc to separate from the stem. The licensee did not promptly identify the complete population of valves affected by this issue. In May 2007, a service water valve failure occurred in which stem-disc separation occurred as a result of similar corrosion issues.

The finding is of more than minor significance because it affects the equipment performance attribute of the Mitigating Systems cornerstone and adversely affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring the availability, reliability, and capability of systems that respond to initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences. Specifically, susceptibility of the valves to corrosion reduced the reliability of safety-related systems. The finding is of very low safety significance (Green) because it was not a design or qualification deficiency, and did not represent an actual loss of safety function for greater than the allowed technical specification outage time. The inspectors evaluated this finding for a cross-cutting aspect; no primary cross-cutting aspect was identified.

Inspection Report# : [2007006](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Jul 16, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: FIN Finding

Parallel Performance Indicator White Finding

The NRC identified significant weakness regarding historical evaluations for safety-related breaker failures and the thoroughness of design modification reviews for the installation of new breakers.

In accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (MC) 0305, a [parallel] PI finding will be opened. This provides for NRC's continued review of the licensee's actions to address the weaknesses identified in this report. In accordance with MC 0305, this finding takes the color of the original PI.

Inspection Report# : [2007008](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Jul 16, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Inadequate Evaluation of Breaker Failures and Subsequent Corrective Actions.

The NRC identified a Green non-cited violation with two examples of 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, for failing to promptly identify and correct a condition adverse to quality. For the first example, weaknesses with the thoroughness of evaluations for safety-related service water breaker failures resulted in a failure to identify backplate bending as a primary root cause for three failures which contributed to the White PI. For the second example, the

licensee failed to identify and correct MOC switch alignment problems which resulted in an inoperable breaker for the 1C EDG.

The first example is more than minor because the finding affected the equipment performance attribute of the Mitigating Systems cornerstone objective involving equipment reliability in that affected service water breakers could open when demanded to close. This finding is of very low safety significance (Green) because the failure to identify and correct backplate bending in the three failures did not result in the actual loss of safety function of a single Train for greater than its Technical Specification allowed outage time. The example was found to be associated with the thoroughness of evaluation aspect of the Problem Identification and Resolution cross-cutting area in that backplate bending was not effectively evaluated as a cause for breaker failures.

The second example is more than minor because it adversely affected the equipment performance attribute of the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone objective involving equipment reliability in that the 1C EDG sequencer was not functional for 176 days. Because there was an actual loss of safety function of a single train for greater than the TS allowed outage time, a Phase 3 evaluation was performed. This finding was determined to be of very low safety significance (Green) due to mitigation/recovery credit for the failure based on emergency procedures that clearly direct operators to manually load the 1C EDG with the required safety equipment. The example was also found to be associated with the thoroughness of evaluation aspect of the Problem Identification and Resolution cross-cutting area in that earlier MOC switch failures were not thoroughly evaluated resulting in a thorough design evaluation not being accomplished.

This violation was entered into the licensee's corrective action program (CAP) as CR 2007104129. (Section 02.04.2) Inspection Report# : [2007008](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Dec 31, 2006

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Inadequate Corrective Actions for Main Steam Isolation Valve Failures

An NRC-identified non-cited violation of 10 CFR 50 Appendix B, Criterion XVI, Corrective Actions, was identified for failure to correct repetitive failures of main steam isolation valves (MSIVs). The April 2006 failure of the three Unit 1 outboard MSIVs to properly operate exhibited similar symptoms to three previous failures which occurred over the period of 2000 to April, 2006. The inspectors identified a number of missed opportunities for the licensee to properly identify and correct the failure mechanisms which led to the most recent failures. The licensee has entered this violation into the corrective action program as CR 2006103043.

This finding is of greater than minor safety significance because it affected the objectives of the Mitigating Systems cornerstone. It affected the availability and reliability of systems that mitigate initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences and the ability of the outboard MSIVs to close. This finding is of very low safety significance because based on the identified failure mechanisms, the inboard valves were generally independent of the outboard valves performance. The finding had problem identification and resolution cross-cutting aspects related to failure of the licensee to thoroughly evaluate problems such that the resolutions address causes and extent of conditions as necessary.

Inspection Report# : [2006005](#) (*pdf*)

Barrier Integrity

Emergency Preparedness

Occupational Radiation Safety

Public Radiation Safety

Physical Protection

Although the NRC is actively overseeing the Security cornerstone, the Commission has decided that certain findings pertaining to security cornerstone will not be publicly available to ensure that potentially useful information is not provided to a possible adversary. Therefore, the [cover letters](#) to security inspection reports may be viewed.

Miscellaneous

Significance: N/A Aug 24, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: FIN Finding

Biennial Identification and Resolution of Problems Inspection Results

One finding of very low safety significance (Green) was identified. The licensee was generally effective in identifying problems at a low threshold and entering them into the corrective action program. The licensee properly prioritized issues entered into the corrective action program (CAP) and routinely performed evaluations that were technically accurate and of sufficient depth to address the issue documented in the condition reports (CRs). Overall, corrective actions were effective; however, minor examples of inadequate condition report broadness reviews and documentation issues related to the closure of action items were identified. In general, operating experience was found to be used both proactively and reactively by personnel involved in the corrective action program; however, an example of industry operating experience was identified in which the licensee did not completely develop interim compensatory measures for a condition to which Farley was vulnerable. The licensee's programmatic self-assessments and audits were generally effective in identifying weaknesses in the corrective action program; however, a missed opportunity in the trending of issues which could result in adverse effects on safety-related plant components was identified. The inspectors also concluded that the workers at Farley felt free to report safety concerns.

Inspection Report# : [2007006](#) (*pdf*)

Last modified : December 07, 2007