

Prairie Island 1

4Q/2007 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

Mitigating Systems

Significance:  Jun 22, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Inadequate Modification of Safeguards Screenhouse Ventilation System

The inspectors identified a finding having very low significance (Green) and an associated non-cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control." Specifically, the licensee modified the safeguards screenhouse ventilation system by removing four fans and failed to verify or test the adequacy of the remaining ventilation exhaust fans to cool the safety-related cooling water pumps. Following discovery, the licensee entered the issue into its corrective action program, performed additional tests and calculations and revised the maximum allowable outside air temperature. There was not a cross-cutting aspect to this violation.

This issue was more than minor because it met the criteria in IMC 0612, Appendix E, "Examples of Minor Issues," Example 3j for making an issue more than minor. Specifically, without the evaluations and subsequent imposition of a new maximum outside temperature procedure limit, the inspectors had reasonable doubt that the diesel driven cooling water pumps would reliably perform their safety related function under adverse temperature conditions. The issue was of very low safety significance based on a Phase 1 screening in accordance with IMC 0609, Appendix A, "Significance Determination of Reactor Inspection Findings for At-Power Situations.

Inspection Report# : [2007007](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Jun 22, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Inadequate Overload Heater Sizing for Safeguards Screenhouse Ventilation Exhaust Fan

The inspectors identified a finding having very low significance and an associated non cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control." Specifically, the licensee failed to ensure that the thermal overload heater for the 21 screenhouse safeguards roof exhaust fan had sufficient margin to allow proper operation under adverse conditions. Following discovery, the licensee entered the issue into its corrective action program, took actual running current measurements and performed preliminary calculations to justify operability. There was not a cross-cutting aspect to this violation.

This issue was more than minor in accordance with IMC 0612, Appendix B, "Issue Disposition Screening," because, at the time of discovery, there was reasonable doubt on the operability of fan 21. Specifically, because of the errors in setting and testing the 21 screenhouse safeguards roof exhaust fan thermal overload heater, actual field measurements and further evaluation needed to be performed in order to demonstrate that the overload heater could perform its safety function during a design basis event. The issue was of very low safety significance based on a Phase 1 screening in accordance with IMC 0609, Appendix A, "Significance Determination of Reactor Inspection Findings for At-Power Situations.

Inspection Report# : [2007007](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Jun 22, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Non-Conservative Inputs for Motor-Operated Valve Calculations

The inspectors identified a finding having very low significance (Green) and an associated non cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control." Specifically, the licensee used non-conservative inputs or methodologies in calculating terminal voltages or control circuit voltages to safety-related MOV motors that would be required to operate for mitigation of design bases events. Following discovery, the licensee redid a number of calculations to demonstrate MOV operability, performed an informal bounding analysis to verify that the inputs to the calculations were conservative and entered the issue into its corrective action program. There was not a cross-cutting aspect to this violation.

This issue was more than minor because it met the criteria in IMC 0612, Appendix E, "Examples of Minor Issues," Example 3j for making an issue more than minor. Specifically, the use of non-conservative values of motor control center voltages or starting current to calculate MOV terminal voltages or control circuit voltages to safety-related MOVs, combined with the fact that the electrical voltage analyses had not been updated for a significant period of time to reflect plant modifications, and the omission of the cooling water crossover valve, with its required safety function to close during a design bases event resulted in a condition where there was reasonable doubt on the operability of the components. Both the electrical voltage calculations and mechanical thrust and torque calculations had to be re-evaluated to determine operability of the affected safety-related MOVs. The issue was of very low safety significance based on a Phase 1 screening in accordance with IMC 0609, Appendix A, "Significance Determination of Reactor Inspection Findings for At-Power Situations."
Inspection Report# : [2007007](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Jun 22, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Inadequate Voltage at Charging Motor for Diesel Output Breaker Springs

The inspectors identified a finding having very low significance (Green) and an associated non cited violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, "Corrective Action." Specifically, the licensee failed to identify and correct a condition adverse to quality related to the insufficient available voltage, during normal operating conditions, for the spring charging motor associated with the Unit 1 Train A emergency diesel generator's (EDG) output breaker. The licensee had previously identified an insufficient voltage for this charging motor under adverse circumstances but failed to address normal operating conditions. Following discovery, the licensee verified the breaker closing springs were in the correct position and entered the issue into its corrective action program. There was not a cross-cutting aspect to this violation.

This issue was more than minor in accordance with IMC 0612, Appendix B, "Issue Disposition Screening," because, if left uncorrected, the issue would become a more significant concern. Specifically, since the spring charging motor was constantly being subjected to a voltage significantly than required, the motor would eventually degrade to a point where it would not produce sufficient torque to charge the breaker closing springs resulting in stalling of the motor. This would result in the inoperability of the EDG output breaker, which in turn would make the Unit 1 Train A EDG inoperable. The issue was of very low safety significance based on a Phase 1 screening in accordance with IMC 0609, Appendix A, "Significance Determination of Reactor Inspection Findings for At-Power Situations."

Inspection Report# : [2007007](#) (*pdf*)

Barrier Integrity

Emergency Preparedness

Occupational Radiation Safety

G**Significance:** Jun 30, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

CONTINUE TO PERMIT UNIT 2 CONTAINMENT ACCESS ON RADIATION WORK PERMITS THAT DO NOT AUTHORIZE ACCESS TO AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS

Green. A finding of very low safety significance and two associated Non-Cited Violations were inspector-identified associated with the licensee's failure to adequately implement radiation safety procedures concerning the control and response to airborne radiological conditions in containment during the Unit 2 refueling outage (U2R24). After airborne radiological conditions were identified, station personnel continued to access the Unit 2 containment on radiation work permits that did not allow work in a posted airborne radioactivity area. Additionally, once elevated airborne radiation conditions were detected, all personnel were not evacuated from the area, as required by station procedures. The licensee entered the issue into the corrective action program. Licensee corrective actions for this issue included changes to outage planning and scheduling activities to minimize the likelihood of creating airborne conditions in containment and reinforcing the necessity for procedural compliance.

The finding was more than minor because it was associated with the Program/Process attribute of the Occupational Radiation Safety cornerstone and potentially affected the cornerstone objective to ensure adequate protection of worker health and safety from exposure to radiation. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because the finding did not involve As-Low-As-Reasonably-Achievable planning, collective dose was not a factor, it did not involve an overexposure, there was not a substantial potential for a worker overexposure, and the licensee's ability to assess worker dose was not compromised. The cause of the finding is related to a cross-cutting aspect in the area of human performance in work practices. Specifically, human performance work practices require that the licensee define and effectively communicate expectations regarding procedural compliance and that personnel follow procedures (H.4(b)).

Inspection Report# : [2007003](#) (*pdf*)**G****Significance:** Jun 30, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

FAILURE TO EVACUATE UNIT 2 CONTAINMENT UPON DETECTION OF ELEVATED AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS

Green. A finding of very low safety significance and two associated NCVs were identified by the inspectors. Specifically, the licensee failed to adequately implement radiation safety procedures concerning the control and response to airborne radiological conditions in containment during the Unit 2 refueling outage (U2R24). After airborne radiological conditions were identified, station personnel continued to access the Unit 2 containment on radiation work permits that did not allow work in a posted airborne radioactivity area. Additionally, once elevated airborne radiation conditions were detected, all personnel were not evacuated from the area as required by station procedures. The licensee entered the issue into the corrective action program. Licensee corrective actions for this issue included changes to outage planning and scheduling activities to minimize the likelihood of creating airborne conditions in containment and reinforcing the necessity for procedural compliance.

The finding was more than minor because it was associated with the Program/Process attribute of the Occupational Radiation Safety cornerstone and affected the cornerstone objective to ensure adequate protection of worker health and safety from exposure to radiation. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance, using the significance determination process, because the finding did not involve As-Low-As-Reasonably-Achievable planning, collective dose as a factor, an overexposure, a substantial potential for a worker overexposure, and any level of compromise of the licensee's ability to assess worker dose. The cause of the finding is related to a cross-cutting aspect in the area of human performance in work practices. Specifically, the licensee did not effectively follow procedures and communicate expectations regarding procedural compliance and follow procedures (H.4(b)).

Inspection Report# : [2007003](#) (*pdf*)**G****Significance:** Mar 31, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

FAILURE TO PROPERLY CONTROL ACCESS TO A LOCKED HIGH RADIATION AREA

A finding of very low safety significance and associated Non-Cited Violation was inspector-identified during review of an issue where a station operator entered into a Locked High Radiation Area (LHRA) without authorization while a high integrity container was being moved to the radioactive waste barrel yard. The licensee has entered this finding into the corrective action program.

The finding was more than minor because it was associated with the Program/Process attribute of the Occupational Radiation Safety cornerstone, and potentially affected the cornerstone objective to ensure adequate protection of worker health and safety from exposure to radiation. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because the finding did not involve As-Low-As-Reasonably-Achievable planning, collective dose was not a factor, it did not involve an overexposure, and the individual involved received very low dose. Additionally, there was not a substantial potential for a worker overexposure, and the licensee's ability to assess worker dose was not compromised.

The initial licensee evaluation of this issue was inadequate because it failed to address this event in relationship to previous similar events concerning the performance and effectiveness of LHRA guards. Specifically, Prairie Island had a similar event involving the performance of LHRA guards controlling access to radiologically significant areas during its April 2006 refueling outage. Had the previous event been properly identified, entered into the licensee's corrective action program, and evaluated adequately and in a timely manner, this December 2006 event may not have occurred. Consequently, this finding also related to the cross-cutting area of problem identification and resolution dealing with the corrective action program component to ensure issues are promptly identified and fully evaluated to allow timely corrective actions.

Inspection Report# : [2007002](#) (*pdf*)

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

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