

South Texas 2

1Q/2008 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

Significance: G Jul 06, 2007

Identified By: Self-Revealing

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Improper Turbine Load Rate Manipulation Results in Unexpected Power Reduction

The inspectors reviewed a self-revealing noncited violation of Technical Specification 6.8.1.a for the failure to follow Procedure 0POP03-ZG-0006, "Plant Shutdown from 100% to Hot Standby," Revision 28. As part of the shutdown, operations personnel are directed to reduce turbine load at the desired ramp rate by adjusting the load rate thumbwheel. However, during the evolution the thumbwheel was inadvertently moved in the wrong direction, thereby causing the turbine load rate to change from 0.25 percent/min to 200 percent/min. This resulted in a transient on the plant causing reactor power to lower by about 6 percent rated thermal power and average coolant temperature to rise by about 2.3 °F.

This finding was more than minor because it was associated with the Initiating Events Cornerstone attribute of human performance and it affected the cornerstone objective of limiting the likelihood of those events that upset plant stability and challenged critical safety functions during power operations. The inspectors evaluated the violation using Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, "Significance Determination Process," Appendix A, "Significance Determination of Reactor Inspection Findings for At-Power Situations," Phase 1 screening, and determined that it was of very low safety significance because, although the likelihood of a reactor trip increased, the likelihood that mitigating systems would not be available did not increase. This issue also had human performance crosscutting aspects, in the area of decision-making, because the licensee had not conducted effectiveness reviews of safety-significant decisions to verify the validity of the underlying assumptions, identify possible unintended consequences, and determine how to improve future decisions (H.1(b)). The licensee had previously evaluated most turbine control manipulations as 'skill of the craft' and did not identify the potential challenge to reactivity management. This was reflected in the manner in which the turbine was operated, always in the 'go' setting, and that the 200 percent/min position had not been previously eliminated as it served no operational function. This directly contributed to the resultant plant transient.

Inspection Report# : [2007003](#) (*pdf*)

Significance: G Apr 06, 2007

Identified By: Self-Revealing

Item Type: FIN Finding

Human Performance Error Hanging an Equipment Clearance Order

The inspectors reviewed a self-revealing finding for a failure to follow procedure, which resulted in losing power to Load Center 2G2 and subsequently the running stator cooling water pump, which would have resulted in a main turbine/reactor trip had the standby stator cooling water pump not auto started. The plant operator opened Breaker 2G2/3B, the supply breaker to Load Center 2G2, instead of Breaker 2G2/3C, the power supply to the condenser air removal system Pump 23. Just before opening the breaker, the plant operator took his eyes off the breaker to bend down and read the breaker racking procedure and the equipment clearance order. Upon standing up, the plant operator did not ensure that he was manipulating the correct breaker and inserted the breaker racking tool into the wrong breaker.

This finding was more than minor because it was associated with the initiating events cornerstone attribute of human performance and it affected the cornerstone objective of limiting the likelihood of those events that upset plant stability and challenge critical safety functions during power operations. The inspectors evaluated the finding using the Significance Determination Process Phase 1 screening and determined it to be of very low safety significance (Green) because, although the likelihood of a reactor trip increased, the likelihood that mitigating systems would not be available did not increase. This issue also had human performance crosscutting aspects associated with work practices in that personnel involved failed to follow the procedure due to inadequate human error prevention techniques, such as self and peer checking.

Mitigating Systems

Significance:  Apr 06, 2007

Identified By: Self-Revealing

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Improper Maintenance Results in Damage to a HHSI Pump Resulting in NOED

The inspectors reviewed a self-revealing noncited violation of Technical Specification 6.8.1.a for failure to follow Procedures STI 32013741, "Conduct of Maintenance," dated May 15, 2006, and OPMP04-SI-0002, "High Head Safety Injection Pump Maintenance." On November 27, 2006, the Unit 2 high head safety injection Pump 2A was declared inoperable in order to replace the mechanical seal. The craftsmen encountered several clearance (tolerance) problems trying to remove various parts of the pump. Instead of recognizing the unexpected conditions as adverse and stopping work, the craftsmen and their supervisor continued to troubleshoot the pump outside of the prescribed procedural steps. As a result, the pump was damaged and the licensee requested, which the NRC granted, enforcement discretion to prevent a required Technical Specification shutdown. This event demonstrated improper maintenance practices as outlined in the conduct of maintenance procedure, specifically, ". . . If at any time a conflict arises, unexpected conditions develop, the job instructions are unclear, or the work cannot be performed as planned, stop the job."

The inspectors determined that the violation was more than minor because it was associated with the mitigating systems cornerstone attribute of equipment and human performance, and it affected the cornerstone objective to ensure the availability of systems that respond to initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences. Furthermore, the performance deficiency would have resulted in a Technical specification shutdown if not for the Notice of Enforcement Discretion. The inspectors evaluated the violation using Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, "Significance Determination Process," Appendix A, "Significance Determination of Reactor Inspection Findings for At-Power Situations," Phase 1 screening, and determined that it resulted in Phase 2 analysis due to a single train inoperable for longer than its TS allowed outage time. The Phase 2 analysis screened as Green. This finding also had human performance crosscutting aspects associated with work practices in that the licensee did not clearly define and effectively communicate expectations regarding procedural compliance and personnel following procedures.

Barrier Integrity

Emergency Preparedness

Occupational Radiation Safety

Significance:  Jul 06, 2007

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Two Examples of a Failure to Conspicuously Post and Barricade a High Radiation Area

The inspector identified two examples of a noncited violation of Technical Specification 6.12.1 because the licensee failed to conspicuously post and barricade two separate high radiation areas. On April 19, 2007, during a tour of the reactor containment building, the inspector observed the entryways to the steam generator and pressurizer cubicles

were not conspicuously posted or barricaded. The licensee's corrective action was to post and barricade these two areas.

This finding was more than minor because it was associated with the Occupational Radiation Safety Cornerstone attribute of program and process, and affected the cornerstone objective to ensure the adequate protection of a worker's health and safety from exposure to radiation because it could have resulted in workers being exposed to higher radiation levels. When processed through the Occupational Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process, the finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because it was not an as low as is reasonably achievable finding, there was no overexposure or substantial potential for an overexposure, and the ability to assess dose was not compromised. In addition, this finding had a human performance crosscutting aspect, associated with work practices, because the licensee failed to define and effectively communicate expectations about procedural compliance (H.4(b)). The licensee's common cause report, Condition Report 07-7030, concluded that the station had not taken the appropriate steps to ensure that workers' respect for radiation protection procedural compliance, boundary rigor, and reasons for radiation control were effectively communicated.

Inspection Report# : [2007003](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Jul 06, 2007

Identified By: Self-Revealing

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Obtain Authorization to Enter a High Radiation Area

The inspector reviewed a self-revealing noncited violation of Technical Specification 6.8.1 because of a failure to follow procedural and radiation work permit requirements. On April 4, 2007, a worker entered a high radiation area without authorization, did not obtain a health physics briefing, and was not aware of the radiation protection controls established by the radiation work permit instructions. The licensee's corrective actions were to counsel the worker and brief associated maintenance and craft personnel about adhering to procedures and radiation work permit requirements.

This finding was more than minor because it was associated with the Occupational Radiation Safety Cornerstone attribute of program and process, and affected the cornerstone objective to ensure the adequate protection of a worker's health and safety from exposure to radiation because it resulted in the worker being exposed to higher radiation levels. When processed through the Occupational Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process, the finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because it was not an as low as is reasonably achievable finding, there was no overexposure or substantial potential for an overexposure, and the ability to assess dose was not compromised. In addition, this finding had a human performance crosscutting aspect, associated with work practices, because the licensee failed to ensure adequate supervisory and management oversight of work activities, including contractors, such that radiological safety was supported (H.4(c)). The licensee's common cause report, Condition Report 07-7030, concluded that the station did not have enough supervisors or radiation protection technicians in the field, in addition to management not consistently applying learning center requirements.

Inspection Report# : [2007003](#) (*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

