

Vogtle 2

1Q/2009 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

Mitigating Systems

Barrier Integrity

Emergency Preparedness

Occupational Radiation Safety

Significance:  Dec 31, 2008

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Unauthorized Entries Into High Radiation Areas

Two examples of a self-revealing non-cited violation of Technical Specification 5.7.1, High Radiation Area, [were] identified for unauthorized entry into High Radiation Areas (HRAs). Inadequate communication between workers and Health Physics department resulted in licensee personnel breaching HRA boundaries without prior knowledge of the radiological conditions. The licensee had entered these issues into the corrective action program as Condition Reports 2007105476 and 2007108830.

This finding is greater than minor because it is associated with the Occupational Radiation Safety Cornerstone attribute of Human Performance and adversely affects the cornerstone objective of ensuring adequate protection of worker health and safety from exposure to radiation from radioactive material during routine civilian nuclear reactor operation. The finding was evaluated using the Occupational Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process and was determined to be of very low safety significance because it not related to As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) planning, did not involve an overexposure or substantial potential for overexposure, and the ability to assess dose was not compromised. This finding involved the cross-cutting aspect of Human Performance, Work Practices [H.4.a] because the HRA events were a direct result of poor communications during pre-job briefings and a willingness on the part of licensee personnel to proceed in the face of uncertainty.

Inspection Report# : [2008005](#) (*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

Significance: N/A Feb 27, 2009

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: FIN Finding

Vogtle PI&R Summary

The team concluded that, in general, problems were identified, evaluated, prioritized, and corrected. The licensee was effective at identifying problems and entering them into the corrective action program (CAP) for resolution, as evidenced by the relatively few deficiencies identified by external organizations (including the NRC) that had not been previously identified by the licensee, during the review period. Generally, prioritization and evaluation of issues were adequate, formal root cause evaluations for significant problems were adequate, and corrective actions specified for problems were acceptable. Overall, corrective actions developed and implemented for issues were generally effective and implemented in a timely manner. However, the team identified examples of minor problems, including closing of a corrective action prior to completion and closing of a corrective action without clear documentation of what was performed.

The team determined that overall audits and self-assessments were adequate in identifying deficiencies and areas for improvement in the CAP, and appropriate corrective actions were developed to address the issues identified. Operating experience usage was found to be generally acceptable and integrated into the licensee's processes for performing and managing work, and plant operations.

Based on discussions and interviews conducted with plant employees from various departments, the inspectors determined that personnel at the site felt free to raise safety concerns to management and use the CAP to resolve those concerns.

Inspection Report# : [2009006](#) (*pdf*)

Last modified : May 28, 2009