

Vogtle 2

3Q/2011 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

Mitigating Systems

Significance:  Mar 31, 2011

Identified By: Self-Revealing

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Depressurization of main firewater header

A self-revealing NCV of Vogtle Unit 1 operating license condition 2.G. and Vogtle Unit 2 operating license condition 2.G. was identified for failure to maintain the main firewater header pressurized. Specifically, in response to two firewater header low

pressure alarms, operations personnel failed to perform the steps listed in the alarm response procedure. This led to the inadvertent depressurization of the main firewater header. Once the licensee became aware of the system depressurization, the shift supervisor directed an operator to start the available jockey pump, and within a few minutes system pressure was restored. This event was entered into the licensee's corrective action program as CR 2010113782.

The finding is considered more than minor because it is associated with external events attribute of the Mitigating Systems cornerstone. Specifically, the performance deficiency adversely affected the protection against external events (fire) attribute of the Mitigating Systems cornerstone objective to ensure the availability and reliability of systems that respond to initiating events to prevent undesirable consequences. Both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 screening worksheets of IMC 0609, Appendix F, indicated that the violation was potentially greater-than-green. The regional Senior Reactor Analyst completed a Phase 3 evaluation. This evaluation concluded that the violation was of very low safety significance (Green). The inspectors determined that the cause of this finding was related to the Decision-Making component of the Human Performance cross-cutting area due to operators using non-conservative assumptions in their decision making. [H.1(a)] (Section 4OA5.2)

Inspection Report# : [2011002](#) (*pdf*)

Barrier Integrity

Significance:  Mar 31, 2011

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to perform general visual examination of containment metallic liner in reactor vessel cavity underneath the reactor vessel

The NRC identified a Green NCV of 10 CFR Part 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," for the licensee's failure to conduct a general visual examination of the Units 1 and 2 containment metallic liner around the reactor cavity underneath the reactor vessel. The licensee took corrective actions to conduct the required visual examinations in Unit 1, including ultrasonic testing (UT) thickness measurements to evaluate the condition of the liner, and initiated action items to examine the same area in Unit 2 during the next refueling outage. The licensee initiated Condition Report (CR) 2011104688 to address the issue through the Corrective Action Program (CAP) and conducted the required general visual inspection in Unit 1 containment and found no pitting or cracking in the area examined. In addition, the licensee performed UT thickness measurements in affected areas of the metallic liner to evaluate the liner thickness

against the design criteria

The licensee's failure to conduct a general visual examination of the containment metallic liner in the reactor cavity area underneath the reactor vessel in accordance with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI, Subsection IWE was a performance deficiency. The finding was more than minor because it was associated with the Design Control attribute of the Barrier Integrity Cornerstone and affected the cornerstone objective in that visual inspections of the containment metallic liner were not performed to provide reasonable assurance that the liner remained capable of performing its intended safety function. The finding was of very low safety significance (Green) because the finding did not represent an actual open pathway in the physical integrity of the reactor containment. The finding has a cross-cutting aspect in the operating experience (OE) component of the area of problem identification and resolution because OE was not implemented and institutionalized through station procedures. [P.2.b] (Section 1R08)

Inspection Report# : [2011002](#) (pdf)

Significance:  Dec 31, 2010

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to utilize the Corrective Action Program to identify a condition adverse to quality

An NRC identified non-cited violation (NCV) of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, Corrective Action, was identified for the failure of the licensee to identify within their CAP to correct a condition adverse to quality. Plant personnel had knowledge of 480V ABB EMAX circuit breaker failures caused by the upper right hand screw holding down the front cover of the circuit breaker contacting the breaker's closing mechanism, preventing the breaker from closing. The failure to identify and correct the cause of the breaker failures resulted in Containment Cooler Fan #8 being inoperable when the fan's breaker failed to close. The licensee wrote a Condition Report (CR 2010113375) on the Containment Cooler Fan breaker. Corrective actions included a temporary modification to remove the upper right hand screw from all of the 1E 480V ABB EMAX circuit breakers. The licensee further plans to restore the breakers to their original configuration with new shorter screws and apply a maximum torque value for the screws.

The finding is more than minor because it had a direct impact on the Containment Cooler breaker's ability to perform its safety related function; resulted in containment cooling train B being inoperable for 22 hours. The finding affected the Barrier Integrity Cornerstone due to reduced containment heat removal capability with a containment cooler inoperable. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance (Green) because the loss of the cooler did not meet the criteria identified in IMC 609.04, Phase 1 - Initial Screening and Characterization of Findings, for the containment barrier which would result in the finding being greater than green. The finding is indicative of current licensee performance and the cause of the finding was related to the Corrective Action Program component of the Problem Identification and Resolution cross-cutting area. Specifically, the licensee does not implement a corrective action program with a low threshold for identifying issues. The licensee did not identify the 480V ABB breaker issues completely, accurately, and in a timely manner commensurate with their safety significance (P.1(a)). (Section 4OA2.2)

Inspection Report# : [2010005](#) (pdf)

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

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