

Byron 1

2Q/2015 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

Mitigating Systems

Significance:  Dec 31, 2014

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV Non-Cited Violation

Failure to Measure Interpass Temperature

The inspectors identified a finding of very low safety significance and an associated NCV of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion IX, "Control of Special Processes," for a failure to measure the interpass temperature while performing welding on the on the safety injection (SI) piping system. Consequently, welding was performed without the Code and procedure required interpass temperature being monitored on a number of welds, a parameter which can affect the mechanical properties of the material being welded. After identification of the issue, the welders restored compliance by measuring the interpass temperatures on the balance of the welds and verifying that the interpass temperature did not exceed that allowed by procedure. The licensee entered this issue into its Corrective Action Program (CAP) (IR 02391545).

The inspectors determined that this issue was more than minor in accordance with IMC 0612, Appendix B, "Issue Screening," dated September 7, 2012, because the inspectors answered "Yes" to the More-than-Minor question, "If left uncorrected, would the performance deficiency have the potential to lead to a more significant safety concern?" Specifically, absent NRC intervention, the welders would have completed all of the welds without having measured the interpass temperature, a welding parameter which can affect the mechanical properties (e.g., impact properties) of some materials being welded, and if left uncorrected, could lead to a potential failure of the weld in service. In accordance with Table 2, "Cornerstones Affected by Degraded Condition or Programmatic Weakness," of IMC 609, Attachment 4, "Initial Characterization of Findings," issued June 19, 2012, the inspectors checked the box under the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone because leakage on the SI piping system could degrade short term heat removal. The inspectors determined this finding was of very-low safety significance (Green) using Part A of Exhibit 2, "Mitigating Systems Screening Questions," in IMC 0609, Appendix A, "The Significance Determination Process for Findings At-Power," issued on June 19, 2012. Specifically, the inspectors answered "Yes" to the screening question "If the finding is a deficiency affecting the design or qualification of a mitigating Systems Structures and Components (SSC), does the SSC maintain its operability or functionality?" The welders proceeded to measure the interpass temperatures on the balance of the welds and verified that the interpass temperature did not exceed that allowed by procedure, and the issue did not result in the actual loss of the operability or functionality of a safety system. The finding had a cross-cutting aspect of Procedure Adherence in the area of Human Performance (IMC 0310 H.8). Specifically, the welders failed to follow procedures.

Inspection Report# : [2014005](#) (*pdf*)

Significance:  Dec 31, 2014

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV Non-Cited Violation

Liquid Penetrant (PT) Testing Procedure Did Not Meet ASME Code

The inspectors identified a finding of very low safety significance and an associated NCV of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion IX, "Control of Special Processes," for the failure to perform a Liquid Penetrant Test (PT) in accordance with the American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code while performing a surface examination on reactor coolant pump (RCP) flywheel 2A/D483. The vendor conducted a demonstration in an attempt to show the differences in bleed-out between the two dwell times, to demonstrate continued functionality of the flywheel. The results showed little if any difference in the growth of the bleed-out given the additional time. The licensee was developing an action plan to address the non-conformance and restore compliance. The issue was entered into the licensee's CAP as IR 02393595 and IR 02399248.

The inspectors determined that this issue was more than minor in accordance with IMC 0612, Appendix B, "Issue Screening," dated September 7, 2012, because the inspectors answered "Yes" to the More-than-Minor question, "If left uncorrected, would the performance deficiency have the potential to lead to a more significant safety concern?" Specifically, since the liquid penetrant testing developer minimum dwell time may not have been met, the liquid penetrant examination was not assured to accurately measure a rejectable flaw. Absent NRC intervention, the potential would exist for a rejectable flaw to remain in service, affecting the operability of affected systems. In accordance with Table 2, "Cornerstones Affected by Degraded Condition or Programmatic Weakness," of IMC 609, Attachment 4, "Initial Characterization of Findings," issued June 19, 2012, the inspectors checked the box under the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone because failure of the RCP flywheel could degrade core decay heat removal. The inspectors determined this finding was of very-low safety significance (Green) using Part A of Exhibit 2, "Mitigating Systems Screening Questions," in IMC 0609, Appendix A, "The Significance Determination Process for Findings At-Power," issued on June 19, 2012. Specifically, the issue did not result in the actual loss of the operability or functionality of a safety system; and therefore the inspectors answered "Yes" to the screening question "If the finding is a deficiency affecting the design or qualification of a mitigating SSC, does the SSC maintain its operability or functionality?" The vendor subsequently performed demonstrations to show that the bleed-out from an indication would not change appreciably when implementing the additional dwell time. The licensee was still evaluating its planned corrective actions. However, the inspectors determined that the continued non-compliance did not present an immediate safety concern because the licensee/vendor reasonably determined the RCP flywheel remained functional. The finding had a cross-cutting aspect of Change Management in the area of Human Performance (IMC 0310 H.3) in that leaders failed to use a systematic process for evaluating and implementing change so that nuclear safety remains an overriding priority. Specifically, the licensee failed to ensure that the vendor changed its procedure to reflect the requirements of the current edition of the ASME Code adopted by the licensee.

Inspection Report# : [2014005](#) (pdf)

Significance:  Dec 31, 2014

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV Non-Cited Violation

Welding Procedure Specifications Variables Changed Without Revision or Amendment Contrary to ASME Code

The inspectors identified a finding of very low safety significance and associated NCV of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion IX, "Control of Special Processes," for the failure to revise or amend a welding procedure specification (WPS) after changing welding variables, including an increase in amperage, for welding performed on the SI system. The licensee interviewed the welders who indicated that they would likely not have increased the amperage to the range permitted, to restore compliance. The licensee planned to review the use of vendor technical information (VTIP) manual information for welding criteria and cover this issue with the work order planners. Also, the site welding administrator planned to review the issue to be aware of possible WPS deviations in work instructions. The issue was entered into the licensee's CAP as IR 02392483.

The inspectors determined that this issue was more than minor in accordance with IMC 0612, Appendix B, "Issue Screening," dated September 7, 2012, because the inspectors answered "Yes" to the More-than-Minor question, "If left uncorrected, would the performance deficiency have the potential to lead to a more significant safety concern?"

Specifically, the welding variables were changed without appropriate process or documentation, or meeting ASME Code, which resulted in the permitted use of a significant increase in amperage above that in the WPS. This permitted the welders to use an elevated heat input which could have been detrimental to the components being welded. In accordance with Table 2, “Cornerstones Affected by Degraded Condition or Programmatic Weakness,” of IMC 609, Attachment 4, “Initial Characterization of Findings,” issued June 19, 2012, the inspectors checked the box under the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone because degradation of the SI system could degrade short term heat removal. The inspectors determined this finding was of very-low safety significance (Green) using Part A of Exhibit 2, “Mitigating Systems Screening Questions,” in IMC 0609, Appendix A, “The Significance Determination Process for Findings At-Power,” issued on June 19, 2012. Specifically, the inspectors answered "Yes" to the screening question “If the finding is a deficiency affecting the design or qualification of a mitigating SSC, does the SSC maintain its operability or functionality?” The welders indicated that they would likely not have used the elevated heat inputs; and therefore, would still comply with the original WPS, and the issue did not result in the actual loss of the operability or functionality of a safety system. The finding had a cross-cutting aspect of Documentation in the area of Human Performance (IMC 0310 H.7). Specifically, the organization failed to create and maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date documentation.

Inspection Report# : [2014005](#) (*pdf*)

Barrier Integrity

Emergency Preparedness

Significance:  Nov 07, 2014

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV Non-Cited Violation

Inadequate Evacuation Time Estimate Submittals

The NRC identified a Non-Cited Violation (NCV) of 10 CFR 50.54(q)(2) associated with 10 CFR 50.47(b)(10) and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.4, for failing to maintain the effectiveness of the Byron Station Emergency Plan, as a result of failing to provide the station evacuation time estimate (ETE) to the responsible offsite response organizations (OROs) by the required date.

Exelon submitted the Byron Station ETE to the NRC on December 12, 2012, prior to the required due date of December 22, 2012. The NRC completeness review found the ETEs to be incomplete due to Exelon fleet common and site-specific deficiencies; thereby, preventing Exelon from providing the ETEs to responsible OROs and from updating site-specific protective action strategies as necessary. The NRC discussed its concerns regarding the completeness of the ETE, in a teleconference with Exelon on June 10, 2013, and on September 5, 2013, Exelon resubmitted the ETEs for its sites. The NRC again found the ETEs to be incomplete. The issue is a performance deficiency because it involves a failure to comply with a regulation that was under Exelon’s control to identify and prevent. The finding is more than minor because it is associated with the emergency preparedness cornerstone attribute of procedure quality and because it adversely affected the cornerstone objective of ensuring that the licensee is capable of implementing adequate measures to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency. The finding is of very low safety significance (Green) because it was a failure to comply with a non-risk significant portion of 10 CFR 50.47(b)(10). The licensee had entered this issue into their CAP and re-submitted a new revision of the Byron Station ETE to the NRC on May 2, 2014, which was found to be complete by the NRC. The cause of the finding is related to cross-cutting element of Human Performance, Documentation. [IMC 0310 H.7]

Inspection Report# : [2014004](#) (*pdf*)

Occupational Radiation Safety

Public Radiation Safety

Security

Although the Security Cornerstone is included in the Reactor Oversight Process assessment program, the Commission has decided that specific information related to findings and performance indicators pertaining to the Security Cornerstone will not be publicly available to ensure that security information is not provided to a possible adversary. Other than the fact that a finding or performance indicator is Green or Greater-Than-Green, security related information will not be displayed on the public web page. Therefore, the [cover letters](#) to security inspection reports may be viewed.

Miscellaneous

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