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Palo Verde 1 – Quarterly Plant Inspection Findings

3Q/2017 – Plant Inspection Findings

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Initiating Events

Mitigating Systems

Barrier Integrity

Significance: G Jun 30, 2017

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV Non-Cited Violation

Inoperable Containment Isolation Valve Due to Not Operating Valve in Accordance with Station Procedures

The inspectors reviewed a Green self-revealing non-cited violation of Technical Specification 3.6.3 Condition C for exceeding the allowed outage time of 4 hours to isolate the flow path of an inoperable containment isolation valve.

Specifically, Unit 1 containment isolation valve SG-1134 was inoperable from June 28, 2016, to September 21, 2016, due to improper restoration from planned maintenance. The licensee entered this condition in their corrective action program and performed a Level 2 cause analysis under Condition Report 16-14896. The licensee also undertook immediate actions to restore the valve from the neutral position and remotely stroke the valve per procedure.

The inspectors concluded the failure to restore Unit 1 containment isolation valve SG-1134 from maintenance in accordance with station procedures was a performance deficiency. The performance deficiency was more-than-minor and a finding because it is associated with the configuration control attribute of maintaining functionality of containment under the Barrier Integrity cornerstone which affects the cornerstone objective to provide reasonable assurance that physical design barriers will protect the public from radionuclide releases caused by accidents or events. Specifically, the inoperability of this containment isolation valve allowed the potential of a radioactive release during a design basis accident. The inspectors performed the initial significance determination using NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, Appendix H, "Containment Integrity Significance Determination Process," Issue Date: 05/06/04. Section 4.1 determined this to be a Type B finding since the degraded condition did not affect the likelihood of core damage. Table 4.1 shows that containment isolation valves in lines connecting reactor coolant systems to environments with small lines would not contribute to large early release frequency. Since valve SG-1134 is a small (one-inch) valve, this finding screened to Green using the flow chart in Figure 4.1 "LERF-based Significance Determination Process." This finding has a cross-cutting aspect in the area of human performance associated with the documentation component.

Specifically, the licensee failed to provide a work package that was complete, thorough, accurate, and current in accordance with station procedure 40OP-09OP01, "Operation of Air Operated Valves," when returning SG-1134 to its normal operating condition following maintenance. As a result, the valve handwheel was left out of neutral, thereby preventing remote operation.

Inspection Report# : 2017002 (*pdf*)

Emergency Preparedness
Occupational Radiation Safety
Public Radiation Safety
Security

The security cornerstone is an important component of the ROP, which includes various security inspection activities the NRC uses to verify licensee compliance with Commission regulations and thus ensure public health and safety. The Commission determined in the staff requirements memorandum (SRM) for SECY-04-0191, "Withholding Sensitive Unclassified Information Concerning Nuclear Power Reactors from Public Disclosure," dated November 9, 2004, that specific information related to findings and performance indicators associated with the security cornerstone will not be publicly available to ensure that security-related information is not provided to a possible adversary. Security inspection report cover letters will be available on the NRC Web site; however, security-related information on the details of inspection finding(s) will not be displayed.

Miscellaneous

Current data as of : November 29, 2017

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