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Region 2, Atlanta, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: LER 80-012/03L-0:on 800506,while operating at 93% power, nuclear instrumentation runback occurred.Control fuses blew on NIS power range detector N-42.Caused by faulty NIS circuit from detector N-42.Failed detector replaced.

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR LER 80-12

I. Cause Description and Analysis

On May 6, 1980, at 1326 hours during normal operation at 93% power a Nuclear Instrumentation System (NIS) runback to 44% power was observed. The control operator observed the NIS indication and all appeared normal. Radial tilt was calculated and determined normal. During the runback operators observed bistable status lights on NIS detector N-42 to be flashing and giving erratic indications. However after stabilizing, indication was normal. At 1415 hours while increasing load another NIS runback to 55% power occurred. N-42 relays were chattering and I&C personnel observed erratic indications on the N-42 drawer. These indications revealed a problem in the N-42 circuitry. At 1418 hours with the unit at 60% power, control power fuses blew on detector N-42 tripping the associated bistables. In conjunction, a third runback to 28% power occurred. Detector N-42 was removed from service at 1425 hours per Operating Work Procedure NI-2. This required the bistables associated with N-42 to be in the trip position. Normal plant operation was resumed at this time. The minimum degree of redundancy for the NIS power range channels as set forth in Table 3.5-2 of the Technical Specifications was not maintained during the time the detector was apparently malfunctioning prior to the trip of its bistables and its removal from service.

A reactor trip will result from a trip of 2 out of 4 NIS channels. When the N-42 detector failed in the untripped position 3 channels remained operable and would not have prevented the function of the NIS trip. However, the minimum NIS degree of redundancy was not maintained. At 1425 hours when the detector control power fuses blew, the NIS bistables on N-42 went to the tripped position and the proper degree of redundancy was restored.

II. Corrective Action

The detector was removed from service with its associated bistables in the tripped mode. This restored the minimum degree of redundancy. Detector N-42 was replaced on May 17, 1980 and after testing was returned to service May 22, 1980, at 2038 hours.

III. Corrective Action To Prevent Further Occurrences

The failure of the detector is still under investigation. The detector was installed about one and one-half months prior to its failure. With the exception of the failure investigation, no further corrective action is considered necessary.