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SUBJECT: Special rept: on 890228, challenge to overpressure protection sys.

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H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-261
LICENSE NO. DPR-23
SPECIAL REPORT ON CHALLENGE TO OVERPRESSURE PROTECTION SYSTEM

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Technical Specifications 3.1.2.1.e and 6.9.3.1.e, Carolina Power and Light Company submits the following report of operation of the Pressurizer Overpressure Protection System at H. B. Robinson, Unit No. 2.

Event Description

At 0600 hours on February 28, 1989, H. B. Robinson, Unit 2 was synchronized with the system grid following a reactor trip which occurred on February 27, 1989 (Reference LER-89-004). The unit is designed so that when it is placed on line, an instantaneous load of 35 megawatts is required to prevent a generator lockout caused by a generator motoring trip signal. A controller for the Turbine Governor Valves automatically regulates the required megawatt output. During the two previous synchronizations, which occurred during startup from a Refueling Outage, the megawatt output was less than the required 35 megawatts. The Reactor Operator manually increased load on each occasion and I&C was requested to adjust the controller. The controller was adjusted on February 25, 1989. However, when the unit was synchronized on February 28, 1989, the Automatic Governor Valve Controller instantaneously loaded approximately 80 megawatts which resulted in a rapid decrease in the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) temperature and pressure. To compensate for the reduction in temperature and pressure, the Reactor Operator started withdrawing the control rods and the pressurizer pressure controller (PC-444J) automatically started the pressurizer heaters. PC-444J saturated low on the decrease of RCS pressure resulting in the pressurizer heaters staying on. Saturation is an expected response under these conditions for this type of controller. RCS temperature and pressure then increased and the system load was stabilized. At that time, the Reactor Operators received indication that PCV-456 (Pressurizer Power Operated Relief Valve) had cycled open and shut. The Reactor Operator then took manual control of PC-444J and adjusted it so that the pressurizer heaters were secured and pressurizer spray was initiated. PC-444J was then placed back in automatic control.

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Root Cause and Corrective Actions

The root cause for the transient was determined to be the inaccurate setting for the Automatic Governor Valve Controller. During the recent Refueling Outage the turbine was overhauled which created a variance in the controller setting. Also contributing to the inaccurate controller setting is the fact that the operating sequence for the governor valves during startup was changed during the Refueling Outage. Instead of the four valves opening in sequence, all four valves are lifted at the same time. This resulted in a variance from the normal load increase experienced during past startups. I&C Maintenance personnel have since readjusted the controller setting to a more normal value so as not to cause this transient in the future.

If you should have any questions regarding this event, please contact Mr. J. M. Curley, 803-383-1367, or me.

Very truly yours,



R. E. Morgan
General Manager
H. B. Robinson S. E. Plant

SAG:lko

cc: S. D. Ebnetter
L. W. Garner
INPO