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ACCESSION NBR:9205210239 DOC.DATE: 92/05/13 NOTARIZED: NO DOCKET #
 FACIL:50-261 H.B. Robinson Plant, Unit 2, Carolina Power & Light C 05000261
 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 CROOK,R.D. Carolina Power & Light Co.
 CHAMBERS,R.H. Carolina Power & Light Co.
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION

SUBJECT: LER 92-007-00:on 920415,CO2 fire suppression sys in north
 cable vault actuated & toxic gas released into vital area.
 Caused by personnel error resulting in procedural
 noncompliance.Procedure to be reviewed.W/920514 ltr.

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 TITLE: 50.73/50.9 Licensee Event Report (LER), Incident Rpt, etc.

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Carolina Power & Light Company

ROBINSON NUCLEAR PROJECT DEPARTMENT
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11720

RNPD/92-1402
(10CFR50.73)

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-261
LICENSE NO. DPR-23
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT NO. 92-007-00

Gentlemen:

The enclosed Licensee Event Report (LER), is submitted in accordance with
10 CFR 50.73 and NUREG 1022, Supplements No. 1 and 2.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Chambers
General Manager

H. B. Robinson S. E. Plant

RDC:sgk

Enclosure

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

9205210239 920513
PDR ADDCK 05000261
S PDR

EXPIRES: 4/30/92

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P-530), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

FACILITY NAME (1)

H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2

DOCKET NUMBER (2)

0 5 0 0 0 2 6 1

PAGE (3)

1 OF 0 4

TITLE (4)

ALERT DECLARATION DUE TO UNPLANNED RELEASE OF TOXIC GAS IN VITAL AREA

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)						
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAMES	DOCKET NUMBER(S)					
0	4	1	5	9	2	9	2	0	0	7	0	5	0	0	0
THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more of the following) (11)															
OPERATING MODE (9)		N	20.402(b)		20.405(c)		50.73(a)(2)(iv)		73.71(b)						
POWER LEVEL (10)		0	20.405(a)(1)(ii)		50.36(c)(1)		50.73(a)(2)(v)		73.71(c)						
			20.405(a)(1)(iii)		50.36(c)(2)		50.73(a)(2)(vii)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)						
			20.405(a)(1)(iii)		50.73(a)(2)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)		Information						
			20.405(a)(1)(iv)		50.73(a)(2)(ii)		50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)								
			20.405(a)(1)(v)		50.73(a)(2)(iii)		50.73(a)(2)(x)								

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME

R. D. Crook, Sr. Specialist, Regulatory Compliance

TELEPHONE NUMBER

AREA CODE

8 0 3 3 8 3 - 1 1 7 9

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)	MONTH	DAY	YEAR

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately fifteen single-space typewritten lines) (16)

On April 15, 1992, with H. B. Robinson Unit No. 2 in cold shutdown for refueling, the CO2 Fire Suppression System in the North Cable Vault of the Reactor Auxiliary Building actuated. Licensee Fire Protection personnel responded and evacuated the area. An initial inspection of the area was conducted, and no fire was found. The cause of the actuation was attributed to hot work in the area (grinding) prior to inhibition of the Fire Suppression System. Following review of the Emergency Action Level procedure, an Alert was declared due an unplanned release of toxic gas in a vital area. The State and County agencies were notified of such, and an emergency notification was made to the NRC via the ENS pursuant to 10CFR50.72(a)(1)(i). The area was ventilated, and the Alert was terminated after oxygen measurements indicated normal readings.

The cause of the event is attributed to personnel error resulting in a procedural noncompliance.

This event was reviewed pursuant to 10CFR50.73, and determined not to be reportable. This LER is provided to document the declaration and termination of an Emergency Class as specified in the approved Emergency Plan.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (3)			PAGE (3)	
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER		
H. B. ROBINSON, UNIT NO. 2	0 5 0 0 0 2 6 1	9 2	- 0 0 7	- 0 0	0 2	OF 0 4

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 364A's) (17)

I. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

On April 15, 1992, H. B. Robinson Unit No. 2¹ was in cold shutdown condition for a scheduled refueling outage. At 1223 hours, the Control Room received alarms on Fire Zone 9 North Cable Vault fire detection trains "A" and "B". Immediately following the alarms, actuation of the CO2 Fire Suppression System in the North Cable Vault occurred. At 1224 hours, Licensee Fire Protection personnel arrived at the cable vault entrance. Personnel working in the area were evacuated and accounted for and an initial inspection of the area was conducted. No fire was found, and at 1228 hours, the "All Clear" alarm was sounded. Security personnel restricted the area to personnel with self contained breathing apparatus, and oxygen measurements in the room were initiated.

At 1253 hours, following review of the Emergency Action Level procedure, an Alert was declared due to and unplanned release of toxic gas (carbon dioxide) in a vital area. At 1306 hours, the State and County Warning Points were notified in accordance with the Emergency Plan procedures, and at 1328 hours the NRC was notified of the event via the ENS pursuant to 10CFR50.72(a)(1)(i). The Technical Support Center was evacuated and searched, incorporated into the Protected area at 1338 hours, and activated at 1404 hours.

Licensee Operations and Fire Protection personnel blocked open the cable vault fire doors and set up smoke ejector equipment to purge the vault area. At 1328 hours, normal oxygen readings were obtained at all levels of the cable vault area, and sampling in other areas of the Auxiliary Building was initiated. At 1356 hours, other Auxiliary Building oxygen levels were found to be normal. The Alert was terminated at 1411 hours, and the State and County Warning Points were notified as such.

II. CAUSE OF EVENT

This event is attributed to personnel error resulting from two human performance concerns.

Prior to the event, a Hot Work Permit was approved by licensee Fire Protection personnel in accordance with Fire Protection procedures for electrical penetration work in the cable vault area. This permit indicated that Zone 9 Fire Suppression System had been inhibited, when in fact it had not.

¹H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2, is a Westinghouse Pressurized Water Reactor in commercial operation since March, 1971.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

APPROVED OMB NO. 3150-2104
EXPIRES: 8/31/88

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (8)			PAGE (3)	
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER		
H. B. ROBINSON, UNIT NO. 2	0 5 0 0 0 2 6 1 9 2	-	0 0 7	-	0 0	0 3 OF 0 4

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 365A's) (17)

This was due to a commonly used method which relies on informal communications between Fire Protection personnel and craft workers to ensure that any special actions (system inhibits) are performed immediately prior to commencing work. This minimizes the period of time that equipment protected is defeated while preventing the craft worker from having to wait for the permits approval following Fire Protections completion of the special actions. The Fire Protection Technical Aide expected to be notified by the craft personnel prior to their starting work so that he could inhibit the system at that time. At 1221 hours, grinding activities began on the electrical penetration in the room for a planned modification. This grinding caused both trains of the Fire Detection system to activate.

The second inappropriate action concerns an identified lack of effective involvement by the appropriate Operations personnel in the issuance of Hot Work Permits during cold shutdown activities. The licensee Operations Shift Supervisor is procedurally responsible to approve Plant related Hot Work Permits during all conditions except cold shutdown. Therefore, inadequate procedural controls allowed hot work to occur at cold shutdown without effective Operations personnel awareness.

Plant Emergency Procedure EAL-2, Emergency Action Level, provides guidance for emergency classification. This procedure requires that an Alert be declared for an uncontrolled or unplanned release of toxic or flammable gas into a vital area, and for which the release endangers personnel or operability of safeguards equipment.

III. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

At the time of this event, the plant was in cold shutdown condition. The reporting requirements of 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(x) are not applicable to events while shutdown. This report is submitted for information to document the declaration and termination of an Emergency Class as specified in the approved Emergency Plan.

IV. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Immediate Actions:

The Fire Brigade responded and searched the North Cable Vault to ensure all personnel had been evacuated. Air samples were then taken, and oxygen levels indicated thirteen percent (normal levels are approximately twenty one percent). Security personnel were stationed and restricted access to members of the fire brigade only. Since the fire detection system had actuated, which closed the supply and return ventilation dampers, there was no ventilation in the North Cable Vault.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)	
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER		
H. B. ROBINSON, UNIT NO. 2	0 5 0 0 0 2 6 1	9 2	— 0 0 7	— 0 0	0 4	OF 0 4

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 361A's) (17)

The doors between the North and South Cable Vaults were opened allowing the South Cable Vault ventilation system to discharge the carbon dioxide through the Plant Vent with the assistance of a smoke ejector to help move the air to the ventilation return duct. Other areas within the Reactor Auxiliary Building were monitored for oxygen concentration and all areas remained normal.

Future Corrective Actions:

Fire Protection Procedure FP-005 will be reviewed to identify any needed changes in the Hot Work Permit Process and appropriate changes will be made.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Previous Similar Events

None

B. Component Failures

None