

## ACCELERATED DISTRIBUTION DEMONSTRATION SYSTEM

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 FACIL:50-397 WPPSS Nuclear Project, Unit 2, Washington Public Powe 05000397  
 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
 REIS,M.P. Washington Public Power Supply System  
 BAKER,J.W. Washington Public Power Supply System  
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION

SUBJECT: LER 91-017-00:on 910708,ground fault occurred in off-site  
 500 kV sys.Caused by substation personnel error & substation  
 equipment design deficiency.Plant operators returned unit to  
 startup power source.W/910807 ltr.

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

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	NRR/DST/SICB8H3		1	1		NRR/DST/SPLB8D1		1	1
	NRR/DST/SRXB 8E		1	1		<del>REG FILE 02</del>		1	1
	RES/DSIR/EIB		1	1		RGN5 FILE 01		1	1
EXTERNAL:	EG&G BRYCE,J.H		3	3		L ST LOBBY WARD		1	1
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AO  
 J.H.

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

P.O. Box 968 • 3000 George Washington Way • Richland, Washington 99352

G02-91-147  
Docket No. 50-397

NCR No. 291-574

August 7, 1991

Document Control Desk  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: NUCLEAR PLANT NO. 2  
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT NO. 91-017

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is Licensee Event Report No. 91-017 for the WNP-2 Plant. This report is submitted in response to the report requirements of 10CFR50.73 and discusses the items of reportability, corrective action taken, and action taken to preclude recurrence.

Very truly yours,

*J.W. Baker for*

J.W. Baker (M/D 927M)  
WNP-2 Plant Manager

JWB:ac

Enclosure:

Licensee Event Report No. 91-017

cc: Mr. John B. Martin, NRC - Region V  
Mr. C. Sorensen, NRC Resident Inspector (M/D 901A)  
INPO Records Center - Atlanta, GA  
Ms. Dottie Sherman, ANI  
Mr. D. L. Williams, BPA (M/D 399)  
NRC Resident Inspector - walk over copy

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## 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) Washington Nuclear Plant - Unit 2										DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 3 9 1 7										PAGE (3) 1 OF 0 6																													
TITLE (4) AUTO START OF EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATORS WHILE ON BACKFEED. UNDERVOLTAGE WAS INITIATED BY A 500KV GRID DISTURBANCE. ROOT CAUSES ARE PERSONNEL ERROR AND EQUIPMENT DESIGN																																																	
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 7			0 8			9 1			9 1			0 1			7 0			0 0			0 8			0 7			9 1													0 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0									
OPERATING MODE (9)										THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more of the following) (11)																																							
POWER LEVEL (10) 0 0 0										20.402(b)										20.405(c)										50.73(a)(2)(iv)										73.71(b)									
										20.405(a)(1)(i)										50.36(c)(1)										50.73(a)(2)(v)										73.71(c)									
										20.405(a)(1)(ii)										50.36(c)(2)										50.73(a)(2)(vii)										X 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)										Voluntary LER									
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LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)																																																	
NAME M. P. Reis, Compliance Lead																				TELEPHONE NUMBER AREA CODE 5 1 0 9 3 7 7 1 - 1 2 3 8 5																													
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)																				EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)										MONTH DAY YEAR																			
YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)																				X NO																													

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

On July 8, 1991 at 0113 hours, Operations personnel responded to the automatic start of the Division 1 and 2 Emergency Diesel Generators. The Diesels started due to undervoltage conditions on their respective vital power buses. The undervoltage condition resulted when a ground fault occurred in the off-site 500KV system. Misalignment of protective relay selector switches at a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) substation precluded primary protective relays from immediately isolating the faulted line. Backup relaying acting to isolate the fault also de-energized the WNP-2 backfeed power source and plant buses. Transfer to the Startup power source did not occur since the transfer logic was not satisfied. WNP-2 undervoltage relays acted to transfer critical bus power to the Backup transformer.

Operations personnel restored station power to the Startup source at 0136 and reestablished Shutdown Cooling at 0156.

The root causes are personnel error on the part of substation operations personnel and substation equipment design deficiencies. Substation personnel are not WNP-2 employees. Personnel and hardware related corrective actions are being pursued by substation management. WNP-2 will monitor the completion of BPA corrective actions. Further, WNP-2 will perform engineering review to confirm existing relaying is sufficient to protect the unit if a similar event had occurred while at power.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)  
TEXT CONTINUATION

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 60.0 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.

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Washington Nuclear Plant - Unit 2	0 5 0 0 0 3 9 7	9 1	0 1 7	0	0	0 2 OF 0 6

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

Plant Conditions

Power Level -0 %  
Plant Mode - 4 - Cold Shutdown

Event Description

On July 8, 1991 at 0113 hours, Operations personnel responded to an automatic start of the Division 1 and 2 Emergency Diesel Generators. The Diesels started due to undervoltage conditions on their respective vital power buses. The undervoltage was caused by a disturbance in the off-site 500KV system which resulted in total de-energization of the 500KV portion of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Ashe substation from which the plant was backfeeding.

The disturbance was a ground fault on the Marion line feeding the substation. (See Figure 1 for schematic drawing of Ashe substation. The numbers in circles indicate the opening sequence for the substation breakers.) Misalignment of two protective relay selector switches at the substation precluded the BPA primary relays from immediately isolating the faulted line. The switches allowed breaker 4937 to open but not breaker 4940. Backup relaying (line relays) isolated the Hanford line (by opening breakers 4898 and 4901) and then the Slatt line (via breakers 4888 and 4891). Finally the fault was cleared when a neutral overcurrent relay timed out and opened breaker 4940. The fault was completely isolated in less than one second.

WNP-2 backfeed de-energized when the Slatt line isolated by opening breakers 4891 and 4888. Since the Hanford, Slatt and Marion line relays are not designed to trip breaker 4885, WNP-2 was left connected to the de-energized South bus through 4885. Breaker 4885 was not required to open to isolate the fault and did not open. However, for automatic transfer of station power from the 500KV backfeed configuration to the 230KV Startup transformer (TRS) to function, both 4885 and 4888 must open. As a result, auto-transfer to the Startup source did not occur. The resultant loss of power to critical plant buses was detected by undervoltage protective relays. The loss of voltage relay scheme then transferred Division 1 and 2 critical bus power to the Backup transformer (TRB) within four seconds. Concurrently, the loss of voltage relays started the Division 1 and 2 Diesel Generators. The High Pressure Core Spray Diesel Generator was out of service for maintenance at the time of the event.

Since transfer to TRB was successful, the diesels did not pick up load. The operating Shutdown Cooling pump; RHR-P-1A, tripped as part of the load shed sequence associated with transfer to TRB.

Immediate Corrective Actions

WNP-2 plant operators returned the unit to the Startup power source by 0136 hours, restored Shutdown Cooling by 0156 hours and secured the Diesel Generators by 0149 hours.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)  
TEXT CONTINUATION

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 60.0 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.

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

Further Evaluation and Corrective ActionA. Further Evaluation

Start of the Diesel Generators due to undervoltage is not considered to be an Engineered Safeguards Feature actuation, according to the WNP-2 FSAR. Therefore, this LER is voluntarily submitted. Nevertheless the NRC was notified of this event, via ENS, within the four hours allowed by 10CFR50.72(b)(2)(ii). The WNP-2 Resident NRC Inspector was also notified.

The High Pressure Core Spray (HPCS) Diesel Generator was out of service for maintenance during this event. The HPCS system is not designed to transfer to the Backup transformer upon loss of bus voltage. If the Startup transformer is not available, the HPCS diesel is the only other source of power to the system. Hence HPCS was unavailable during the event. However HPCS was not being relied upon to satisfy any ECCS requirements.

The Root Causes of this event are personnel error on the part of substation operations personnel and equipment design deficiency. These root causes are confirmed by both substation operator (BPA) and Supply System investigations. It is believed the selector switches remained misaligned after planned breaker work. Substation personnel failed to use procedurally prescribed methods for changing component status and logging such actions. Since the relay selector switches had been out of service for approximately 19 days, the BPA investigation specifically addressed their procedural controls over substation activities and log keeping. The controls were found to be satisfactory.

Equipment design is less than adequate since there was no indication in the substation control room that the switches were out of its normal position. Further there were no features of the switch which would obviously indicate, locally, that it was out of position.

The transfer to TRB involves both the four second time delay and load shedding. The time delay is sufficient to cause a start of emergency diesel generators due to critical bus undervoltage. The start is precautionary and allows to diesels to more rapidly connect to the critical bus in the event that the Backup power is not available.

Load shedding ensures that the inrush current does not exceed transformer ratings when the transformer is initially energized. In this event, Residual Heat Removal loop A, which was supplying shutdown cooling, tripped as part of the load shed sequence.

No isolation or scram occurred since the RPS flywheel inertia maintained RPS power until the critical buses were re-energized from TRB.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)  
TEXT CONTINUATION

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

**B. Further Corrective Action**

Corrective action for BPA personnel performance issues are not within the control of the Supply System. However BPA is applying corrective measures to ensure the problem does not recur.

BPA will implement modifications to 1) automatically record relay selector switch activity; 2) annunciate and alert the substation operator if a relay selector switch are out of its normal position; and color coding the selector switches to facilitate visual determination of their position.

Supply System Engineering will review the existing WNP-2 electrical protection relaying scheme to ensure adequate protection of unit equipment if a similar event were to occur during operation. Any significant adverse findings will be reported in a supplemental LER.

**Safety Significance**

There is no safety significance to this event. The unit was already in the cold shutdown mode. Shutdown cooling was lost for 43 minutes, resulting in only a two degree rise in reactor coolant temperature. WNP-2 Technical Specifications allows Shutdown Cooling to be out of service for up to two hours in any eight hour period. There was no threat to the health and safety of the public or plant personnel.

Had the unit been operating when this event transpired, it is most likely that plant response would have been similar to that experienced. Generator protective relaying would probably not have responded quickly enough to trip the unit and initiate fast transfer. Grid relaying would have isolated the faulted grid from the unit, leaving the unit tied (via 4885) to the dead South bus at Ashe. This loss of load would have caused turbine speed to increase. The turbine Overspeed Protection Controller (OPC) would cause a reactor scram and a Recirculation Pump Trip (RPT) by depressurizing the OPC hydraulic header. Most likely the acceleration would be too fast to be caught by the Overspeed Protection Controller (OPC) and the turbine would trip on mechanical or electrical overspeed signals. The turbine trip would ultimately trip the unit lock out relays which, in turn, would trip the 500KV breakers and initiate fast transfer.

If the OPC terminated the acceleration before an overspeed trip occurred, it is possible that the OPC would try to control the turbine at synchronous speed until operator action or anti-motoring initiated the turbine trip/generator trip/fast transfer sequence. (The "anti-motoring" signal is generated by a low differential pressure across the high pressure turbine and has a 60 second time delay.)

In either case if the unit and grid would be disconnected for more than a few cycles and, when fast transfer occurred, rotating loads could be re-energized when out of phase with the Startup transformer, potentially damaging the motors or the transformer. While this presents a commercial risk, critical equipment would not be endangered since such equipment is normally in a standby configuration. Sufficient redundant equipment would be available to protect the health and safety of the public.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)  
TEXT CONTINUATION

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

Similar Events

Other WNP-2 LERs related to offsite grid disturbances are:

- LER 85-002      Failed Potential Transformer at a BPA Substation Caused a WNP-2 Generator Trip and Reactor Scram.
- LER 85-003      Erroneous 500KV breaker open signal from BPA substation caused by faulty microwave link.
- LER 86-022      Diesel Generator start caused by momentary loss of 230KV power due to a trip at a BPA substation.
- LER 90-024      Diesel Generator #2 start on grid voltage and frequency fluctuation caused by a thunderstorm.

LER 85-002 corrective actions included extending the delay time for ground relays from 0.25 to 0.5 sec. This allows BPA relaying to clear certain substation faults without unnecessarily tripping WNP-2. The relay functioned as designed in this event.

The corrective actions for LER 85-003 do not relate to this event. The other two LERs did not require corrective action since all equipment responded as expected.

EIIS Information

Text Reference	EIIS Reference	
	System Code	Component Code
Diesel Generator (HPCS)	EK	DG
Diesel Generator (Div. 1 and 2)	EB	DG
Relay	--	RLY
Selector Switches	--	HS
Overcurrent relay	--	67
Transformer	--	XFMR
Bus	--	BU
Residual Heat Removal Pump	BO	P
High Pressure Core Spray	BG	--

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**  
**TEXT CONTINUATION**

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 500 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (R-350), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

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Washington Nuclear Plant - Unit 2

015010013147911-0117-010016016

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

# Ashe Substation

Note: Circled numbers indicate the order in which the breakers opened.

