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CALLAN,L.J. Region 4 (Post 820201)

SUBJECT: Special rept:on 961023,intermediate & high range stack monitors PRM-RE-1B & PRM-RE-1C declared inoperable.Caused by monitor output had upward trend due to electronic noise interference.Work request generated.

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November 8, 1996
GO2-96-221

Docket No. 50-397

L. J. Callan
Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

Dear Mr. Callan:

Subject: **WNP-2, OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21**
SPECIAL REPORT
REACTOR BUILDING EFFLUENT MONITORING SYSTEM

This special report is submitted pursuant to the requirements of WNP-2 Technical Specification Section 3.3.7.5, "Accident Monitoring Instrumentation," Table 3.3.7.5-1, Item 31, "Reactor Building Effluent Monitoring System."

Action Statement 81 for this specification requires that, "With the number of OPERABLE accident monitoring instrumentation channels less than required by the minimum channels OPERABLE requirement, either restore the inoperable channel(s) to OPERABLE status within 72 hours, or initiate the preplanned alternate method of monitoring the appropriate parameters and . . . prepare and submit a Special Report to the Commission pursuant to Specification 6.9.2 within 14 days following the event . . ."

Three radiation monitors are installed in the Reactor Building elevated release discharge duct to identify and quantify gaseous radionuclide releases which could occur during normal and accident conditions. These instruments have overlapping ranges and are characterized as low, intermediate and high range monitors. The intermediate and high range monitors, which are governed by the Technical Specifications, comprise the Reactor Building Effluent Monitoring System and provide accident monitoring capability required by Regulatory Guide 1.97. The low range monitor, which is governed by the Offsite Dose Calculation Manual, provides monitoring pursuant to 10 CFR 20 and 10 CFR 50 requirements for normal operation.

IE22

REACTOR BUILDING EFFLUENT MONITORING SYSTEM

On October 23, 1996 at 0740 hours, intermediate and high range stack monitors PRM-RE-1B and PRM-RE-1C were declared inoperable and the 72-hour Action Statement was entered. The reason for the inoperability determination was that monitor output had trended upward to approximately 2,000 counts per second (cps) due to electronic noise interference. A chemistry sample of the stack monitor atmosphere had been obtained at 0550 hours and no nuclides were identified in the sample count.

On October 26, 1996 at 0740 hours, the Reactor Building Effluent Monitoring System was inoperable for 72 hours requiring the submittal of this special report. The following information is provided in accordance with Technical Specification Table 3.3.7.5-1, Action Statement 81.

Action Taken

1. A Work Request was generated and extensive troubleshooting efforts were performed, with the assistance of a contractor, to determine the cause of the intermediate and high range monitor elevated signals.

2. The Backup Emergency Dose Projection System was verified operable as the preplanned alternate monitoring method. The system was initiated on October 26, 1996 at 0700 hours in accordance with Plant Procedure (PPM) 13.8.1, "Emergency Dose Projection System Operations."

Cause of the Inoperability

The cause of the increased count rate was due to electronic noise interference. During troubleshooting efforts, signals were monitored and it was determined that 60 Hz noise and frequencies resulting from 60 Hz spiking were transmitted on the shield cables of the radiation monitoring instruments. As a result, the monitoring instruments were counting some of the 60 Hz generated electronic noise pulses in addition to all of the signals generated from the associated detectors, such that the noise level exceeded the counts from the detector.

System Status

On October 28, 1996 at approximately 1800 hours, the electrical interference stopped. Following further evaluation, the equipment was declared operable at 1915 hours on October 30, 1996. Although the source of the interference is unknown at this time, efforts to resolve the problem are continuing and being tracked by means of the Problem Evaluation Request process.

In addition, Plant Operators record PRM-RE-1B and PRM-RE-1C readings during each shift in accordance with PPM 3.1.10, "Operating Data and Logs." One of the purposes of this procedure is to provide plant personnel with operating information that could indicate potential trends of developing equipment problems.

REACTOR BUILDING EFFLUENT MONITORING SYSTEM

Further corrective actions consist of a continuing evaluation of: 1) the noise immunity of the radiation monitoring equipment, and 2) the source of the electronic noise interference.

Should you have any questions or require additional information pertaining to this letter, please contact Ms. Lourdes Fernandez at (509) 377-4147.

Respectfully,

P. R. Bemis
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
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