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 PLUNKETT, T.F.    Florida Power & Light Co.  
 RECIP. NAME    RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 EBNETER, S.D.    Region 2 (Post 820201)

SUBJECT: Special rept: on 950201, rapid start of EDG attempted & alarms failed to sound when EDG did not start. Caused by high resistance on contacts of relay. Relay replaced & EDG retested satisfactorily. W/950220 ltr.

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10 CFR §50.36

Stewart D. Ebnetter  
Regional Administrator, Region II  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
101 Marietta St., N.W., Suite 2900  
Atlanta, GA 30323

Mr. Stewart D. Ebnetter:

Re: Turkey Point Unit 3  
Docket No. 50-250  
Special Report - 3B Emergency Diesel Generator Failure

In accordance with Technical Specifications 4.8.1.1.3, the attached Special Report details the 3B Emergency Diesel Generator failure of February 1, 1995.

Should there be any questions on this information please contact us.

Very truly yours,

T. F. Plunkett  
Vice President  
Turkey Point Plant

TFP/CLM/cm

Attachment

cc: USNRC, Document Control Desk, Washington D.C.  
Thomas P. Johnson, Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC,  
Turkey Point Plant

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SPECIAL REPORT

3B EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR FAILURE

PURPOSE:

Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.3, requires the submittal of a special report to the NRC in the event of a diesel generator failure. The Technical Specification requires the report to include the information recommended in Regulatory Position C.3.b of Regulatory Guide 1.108, Revision 1, August, 1977.

BACKGROUND:

Florida Power and Light's (FPL) Turkey Point Nuclear Units 3 and 4 have two Emergency Diesel Generators (EDGs) for each unit. The Unit 3 EDGs were overhauled, and the Unit 4 EDGs installed, during the dual unit outage in 1990/1991.

EVENT:

On February 1, 1995, Units 3 and 4 were in Mode 1, at approximately 100% power. At about 2045 (8:45 P.M.), the 3A EDG was removed from service to repair a leaking hose. At about 2153 (9:53 P.M.), a rapid start was attempted on the 3B EDG in order to satisfy Technical Specification 3.8.1.1.b. The 3B EDG did not start. No alarms were received indicating a start failure.

The following discussion addresses each of the areas listed in Regulatory Position C.3.b of Regulatory Guide 1.108, Revision 1, August, 1977.

(1) DIESEL GENERATOR UNIT INVOLVED:

The 3B EDG failed to start.

(2) IDENTIFY THE FAILURE AS BEING THE N-TH FAILURE IN THE LAST 100 VALID TESTS:

The failure count for the Unit 3 EDGs was transvalued to zero at the end of the dual unit outage, concurrent with the implementation of Turkey Point's Revised Technical Specifications and the dual unit outage overhaul. This failure was the third failure of the 3B EDG since the count was rezeroed but one of these three was a non-valid failure.

(3) CAUSE OF FAILURE:

The cause of the 3B EDG failure was high resistance on the contacts of relay STRX, that energize the EDG starting solenoids. The normal resistance is less than one ohm. The as-found resistance was between 10 and 180+ ohms. At the high end of the as-found resistance the voltage across the solenoids of the starting air solenoid valves was outside the operating range of the solenoids. As a result, the solenoid valves apparently did not open long enough to roll the engine sufficiently to reach ignition.

(4) CORRECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

1. Relay STRX was replaced.
2. The EDG was tested satisfactorily after the relay was replaced.
3. A review of the starting circuit for any other potential problems that would cause cranking failure was performed. No further problems were identified.
4. The failed relay contacts will be inspected for potential aging and common mode problems.
5. The surveillance procedure used to check the EDG each refueling will be reviewed to ensure that it adequately tests the EDG start circuit relays.
6. Similar relays will be inspected on the 3A EDG. The Unit 4 EDGs do not have these relays.

(5) LENGTH OF TIME THE DIESEL GENERATOR WAS UNAVAILABLE:

The 3B EDG was unavailable for 30 hours, 27 minutes.

(6) DEFINITION OF CURRENT SURVEILLANCE TEST INTERVAL:

Unless a trigger value is exceeded (2 failures in the last 20 valid tests, or 5 failures in the last 100 valid tests), the normal surveillance frequency is every 31 days. This is the first failure in the last 20 valid tests, and there have been only two valid failures since the count was rezeroed in 1991 (approximately 50 valid tests). Therefore, the normal 31 day surveillance interval remains in effect for the 3B EDG.

(7) VERIFICATION OF TEST INTERVAL IN CONFORMANCE WITH REGULATORY POSITION C.2.d:

The current test interval is in conformance with the requirements of Regulatory Position C.2.d of RG 1.108, and Turkey Point Technical Specifications Table 4.8-1.

