

shutdown immediately. Main stack release, however, continued to increase due to transport time between the vacuum pump and the main stack. This release continued over approximately 50 minutes. The maximum release rate was 106% of Technical Specification limits. Technical Specification release limits were exceeded for less than 10 minutes during this transient. Simultaneously with this release, the two reactor building roof vents were releasing at a value of 11% of Technical Specification limits. The maximum site gaseous release rate was therefore approximately 117% of the Technical Specification limit. Approximately 1000 Ci of mixed noble gases were released during this event.

Consequences of Event:

Analysis of the roof vent iodine and particulate samples indicated no significant increase in the iodine or particulate release rates during the period of high gaseous activity releases. Analysis of the main stack effluent, sampled 14 hours later when the startup vacuum pump was placed back in service, indicated that the majority of the activity was XE-133 and XE-135 (long lived noble gases). The release was terminated as soon as the increase in radiation levels on the off-gas stack radiation monitor was observed. For these reasons, no environmental impact is anticipated. Plant personnel received no radiation exposure as a result of this event.

Cause of Event:

Depressurization of the primary coolant system following reactor shutdown introduced non-condensable fission product gases into the condenser. Transfer of this inventory to the main stack in accordance with normal startup procedures resulted in a gaseous release rate in excess of Technical Specification limits. The appropriate procedures were deficient in that they did not adequately address the special case of significant fission product inventory in the main condenser with respect to operation of the startup vacuum pump.

Corrective Action:

When the increase in the radiation monitor reading was noticed, the startup vacuum pump was tripped to terminate the release.

Following the initial high release rate, air was pulled through the condenser to provide dilution flow to the vacuum pump during the evacuation of the condenser air space. This eventually permitted establishing a condenser vacuum sufficient to permit return of the unit to service. No additional releases

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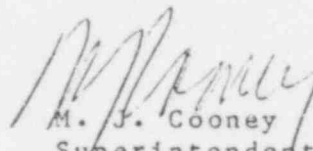
Mr. Boyce H. Grier
July 6, 1979

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in excess of Technical Specification limits occurred during the condenser evacuation operation.

An investigation of this occurrence is being performed by the Electric Production Department and the Mechanical Engineering Division to determine acceptable procedural or equipment modifications to prevent a recurrence.

Yours truly,


M. J. Cooney
Superintendent
Generation Division-Nuclear

Attachment

cc: Director, NRC - Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Mr. Norman M. Haller, NRC - Office of Management &
Program Analysis

Unit 3

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT

Report No. 3-79-20/1T

CONTROL BLOCK:

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION)

0 1 P A P B S 3 2 0 0 - 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 0 3 4 1 1 1 1 4 5
8 9 LICENSEE CODE 14 15 LICENSE NUMBER 25 26 LICENSE TYPE 30 57 CAT 58

CON'T

0 1 REPORT SOURCE L 6 0 5 0 - 0 2 7 8 7 0 6 2 1 7 9 8 0 7 0 6 7 9 9
60 61 DOCKET NUMBER 68 69 EVENT DATE 74 75 REPORT DATE 80

EVENT DESCRIPTION AND PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES (10)

0 2 During plant startup, the radioactive release rate at the main stack
0 3 exceeded Tech Spec limits following operation of the startup vacuum
0 4 pump. The release rate exceeded Tech Spec limits for less than 10
0 5 minutes. The maximum release rate was 106% of Tech Spec limits. The off-
0 6 site consequences of this release were minimal since the majority of
0 7 the activity released was in the form of mixed noble gases.

0 8

0 9 SYSTEM CODE M B 11 CAUSE CODE D 12 CAUSE SUBCODE Z 13 COMPONENT CODE P U M P X X 14 COMP. SUBCODE H 15 VALVE SUBCODE Z 16
17 LER/RO REPORT NUMBER 7 9 21 22 EVENT YEAR 7 9 23 SHUTDOWN METHOD Z 21 24 SEQUENTIAL REPORT NO. 0 2 0 25 OCCURRENCE CODE 0 1 26 REPORT TYPE T 27 REVISION NO. 0 28
ACTION TAKEN X 18 29 FUTURE ACTION G 19 30 EFFECT ON PLANT C 20 31 SHUTDOWN METHOD Z 21 32 HOURS 0 0 0 5 33 ATTACHMENT SUBMITTED Y 23 34 NPRO-4 FORM SUB. N 24 35 PRIME COMP. SUPPLIER A 25 36 COMPONENT MANUFACTURER N 0 1 0 26
33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

CAUSE DESCRIPTION AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS (27)

1 0 Reactor depressurization introduced fission gas into condenser. This gas
1 1 was released via main stack when vacuum pump was started. Vacuum pump
1 2 was immediately tripped. Dilution air was supplied to reduce release
1 3 rate when vacuum pump operation resumed. Engineering investigation is
1 4 being conducted to provide methods or mods to prevent recurrence.

1 5 FACILITY STATUS C 28 29 % POWER 0 0 0 0 30 OTHER STATUS N/A 31 METHOD OF DISCOVERY A 32 DISCOVERY DESCRIPTION Increasing offgas rad monitor
33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

1 6 ACTIVITY CONTENT RELEASED OF RELEASE G 33 34 AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY N 34 1000 Ci of noble gas 35 LOCATION OF RELEASE Main off-gas stack-elevated release
36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

1 7 PERSONNEL EXPOSURES NUMBER 0 0 0 37 TYPE Z 38 DESCRIPTION N/A
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

1 8 PERSONNEL INJURIES NUMBER 0 0 0 40 DESCRIPTION N/A
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

1 9 LOSS OF OR DAMAGE TO FACILITY TYPE Z 42 DESCRIPTION N/A
43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

2 0 PUBLICITY ISSUED DESCRIPTION Y 44 News Release to UPI and AP for TV, Radio, and Newspapers
45 46 47 48 49 50

NAME OF PREPARER

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