



# Public Service Company of Colorado

16805 Weld County Road 19 1/2, Platteville, Colorado 80651

October 19, 1979  
Fort St. Vrain  
Unit No. 1  
P-79241

Mr. Karl V. Seyfrit, Director  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive  
Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76012

REF: Facility Operating License  
No. DPR-34

Docket No. 50-267

Dear Mr. Seyfrit:

Enclosed please find a copy of Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-267/79-38/03-L-0, Final, submitted per the requirements of Technical Specification AC 7.5.2(b)2.

Also, please find enclosed one copy of the Licensee Event Report for Reportable Occurrence Report No. 50-267/79-38/03-L-0.

Very truly yours,

*Don Warembourg*  
Don Warembourg  
Manager, Nuclear Production

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cc: Director, MIPC

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REPORT DATE: October 19, 1979

REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE 79-38

OCCURRENCE DATE: September 21, 1979

ISSUE 0

Page 1 of 3

FORT ST. VRAIN NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO  
16805 WELD COUNTY ROAD 19 1/2  
PLATTEVILLE, COLORADO 80651

REPORT NO. 50-267/79-38/03-L-0

Final

IDENTIFICATION OF  
OCCURRENCE:

On September 21, 1979, with the reactor operating at less than 2% thermal power, ME-9307, one of the two analytical system moisture monitors used for moisture sampling of primary coolant, was determined to be inoperable.

This constitutes operation in a degraded mode permitted by LCO 4.4.5, and is reportable per Fort St. Vrain Technical Specification AC 7.5.2(b)2.

EVENT  
DESCRIPTION:

At approximately 0145 hours on September 21, 1979, operations personnel preparing to take readings for primary coolant moisture logs observed that ME-9307, one of two analytical system moisture monitors sampling primary coolant at the time, had become inoperable. At the time of the two previous readings, notations had been made in the log that this moisture monitor was "standardizing".

These moisture monitors normally go through a standardization process approximately once every twelve hours. During standardization, the moisture monitor mirror is heated up to drive off any frost which has accumulated during monitoring. This process generally could be expected to require approximately one-half hour, during which time the reactor dewpoint as read on the instrumentation would appear to gradually increase, and then return to the actual dewpoint indication. In this instance, however, the indication did not return to normal, and it was determined that this monitor was not standardizing, but was providing incorrect moisture indication.

Technical Specification LCO 4.4.5, Analytical System Primary Coolant Moisture Instrumentation, provides that the reactor shall not be operated between a shutdown condition and 5% power during startup unless primary coolant is being sampled for moisture by two analytical system moisture monitors. However, this Limiting Condition for Operation also allows for one monitor to be out of service for up to twelve hours prior to shutting down the reactor.

The reactor had been operated steadily at less than 2% power since September 15, 1979, and was not actually in the startup phase of operation; however, it is assumed that the period of operation with only one monitor in service is operation under a degraded mode of LCO 4.4.5.

1200 325

EVENT

DESCRIPTION (continued):

At approximately 1000 hours on September 21, 1979, eight hours after moisture monitor ME-9307 was determined to be inoperable, moisture monitor ME-9305 was placed in service. Thus, the period of operation with only one monitor (ME-9306) in service did not exceed the twelve hour time period allowed by LCO 4.4.5.

Investigation of primary coolant moisture logs for the periods preceeding and following this event revealed that reactor dewpoint was well within the limits of LCO 4.2.11 up to and including the return to service of ME-9307 on September 26, 1979.

CAUSE

DESCRIPTION:

Inspection of the moisture monitor revealed that the thermal electric heater in the moisture monitor head had burned out. Two faulty heating/cooling control relays were also discovered.

CORRECTIVE

ACTION:

Upon realization that the inoperable moisture monitor would not be repaired and returned to service in time to meet the twelve hour time limit of LCO 4.4.5, a second monitor was placed in service for primary coolant moisture monitoring.

The faulty moisture monitor head and relays were replaced, the monitor was returned to service and was verified to be indicating and standardizing properly.

No further corrective action is anticipated or required.

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1200 327