

NON-ROUTINE ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT
OCTOBER 9, 1979

Description of Event

At approximately 0850 on October 8, 1979 while performing maintenance on the Number 8 Waste Gas Decay Tank inlet isolation valve bonnet, an inadvertent gaseous release occurred.

The release consisted of approximately 17 millicuries of Kr85. The tank pressure decreased from 12 PSIG to 9 PSIG during the event.

The control room was notified and the 121 ft., 100 ft. and 83 ft. elevations of the Auxiliary Building were cleared of personnel as a precautionary measure. The release was terminated within 17 minutes of its initiation by retorquing the valve bonnet.

Whole body counts and nasal smears were performed on the 3 individuals involved in the incident with negative results. Urinalysis indicated trace amounts of Tritium in two individuals; however, reanalysis within 24 hours indicated Tritium less than M.D.C. (Minimum Detectable Concentration). Gas and particulate samples taken in the immediate area of the valve were negative. Personnel access to all elevations of the Auxiliary Building was permitted by 1445 on October 8, 1979.

It was determined that this occurrence was reportable as a potential item under Tech. Spec. 5.6.2.2.

Designation of Apparent Cause

There were three contributing causes for this incident:

1. The work request was initially written and planned to dis-assemble the valve using a referenced maintenance procedure. On 10/5/79 it was determined that valve dis-assembly would require that the No. 8 Gas Decay Tank be depressurized. As an interim measure, it was then planned to remove the reach rod and attempt to stroke the valve as an aid in determining the need for valve dis-assembly. The work request re-entered the planning cycle at this point and a Tagging Operations Order was generated by planning personnel to establish plant conditions for stroking the valve. However, the work sequence was not revised to reflect the modified instructions.

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2. The Tagging Operations Order was performed and clearance was issued to the Maintenance Foreman to isolate No. 8 Waste Gas Decay Tank to allow stroking of the inlet valve without transferring the tank contents to other positions of the gas system. A plant administrative procedure (FNP-0-AP-14) requires the Tagging Official to notify the requester that the equipment has been tagged and to insure that the requester understands the boundary of the system (or system portion) for which clearance has been granted. In this instance, this information was not relayed to the Maintenance Foreman.
3. The releasing individual, Shift Foreman, for a work request is required to review the work request and resolve any disagreement prior to allowing maintenance to begin. The review performed on the work request was insufficient to identify that the plant conditions necessary for valve dis-assembly were not in affect.

Corrective Action

The following corrective actions have been or will be done:

1. The incident has been discussed with personnel involved to emphasize the need to have the work request reflect the actual work sequence that is to be accomplished and plant conditions which are required. Also, it will be emphasized that conditions may require revision to the planning instructions.
2. This event will be used to emphasize the absolute necessity that the releasing individual satisfy himself that plant conditions are satisfactory for release of the system.
3. This incident will be discussed with all Tagging Officials, Releasing Officials and Maintenance Foremen.

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