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OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
Forked River, New Jersey p8731

Nonroutine Environmental Operating Report No. 50-219/79-7

Report Date

October 18, 1979

Occurrence Date

October 9, 1979

Identification of Occurrence

Exceeding a limiting condition for operation as defined in the Environmental Technical Specifications, paragraph 2.1.4.3 when only one dilution pump was operating for a period of 92 minutes, out of compliance with Appendix B of the Technical Specifications. This event is considered to be a nonroutine environmental operating report as defined in the Technical Specifications, Appendix "B", paragraph 5.6.2.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence

The plant was operating at steady state power.

Power: Reactor, 1915 MWt
Electrical, 664 MWe
Dilution Pump Flow: 5.2×10^5 gpm
Circulating Pump Flow: 4.6×10^5 gpm

Prior to the occurrence, the temperature in Oyster Creek as measured at the U.S. Route #9 bridge was 68.0°F., two dilution pumps were in operation, one dilution pump was being held in reserve. The intake and discharge temperatures were 59.7°F. and 78.8°F., respectively.

Description of Occurrence

Dilution pump 1-2 tripped out of operation at 0156 due to low pressure at the lube oil cooler discharge. Pump 1-1 continued to operate. An attempt was made to restart 1-2 pump but it tripped again. Pump 1-3 would not start due to low seal water pressure. A jumper was installed to bypass the low seal water pressure switch on 1-3 dilution pump. Number 1-3 dilution pump was started at 0343 on October 9, 1979. During the 107 minutes that there was only one dilution pump in service, the discharge temperature as measured at the bridge rose to a maximum of 71.6°F. at 0330 and returned to 67.6°F. at 0430.

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Apparent Cause of Occurrence

The cause of the trip is attributed to the lube oil cooler and lube oil filter being partially plugged and/or possible degradation of the shaft driven lube oil pump.

Analysis of Occurrence

When the temperature of the intake water is below 60.0°F., two dilution pumps are used to help cool the discharge canal and make it less attractive to Menhaden. This is to encourage their normal winter migration south rather than wintering in the discharge canal.

Dilution pump flow was halved for 10 minutes which resulted in a Route #9 bridge temperature rise of 3.6°F. to a maximum temperature of 71.6°F. Due to the small incremental increase in temperature, there was minimal effect to changing normal winter migration.

Corrective Action

The lubricating oil system for the 1-2 pump is being cleaned/repared. An engineering request has been generated for the purpose of upgrading the dilution pump seal and cooling water systems. The seal water pressure is now above the trip setting and the jumper has been removed from 1-3 pump.

Failure Data

Not applicable.

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