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DUKE POWER COMPANY

POWER BUILDING

422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28242

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT  
STEAM PRODUCTION

May 7, 1981

TELEPHONE: AREA 704  
373-4083

81-054-034

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: McGuire Nuclear Station Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-369

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report RO-369/81-47. This report concerns the operability of the containment particulate radiation activity monitor EMF-38. This incident was considered to be of no significance with respect to the health and safety of the public.

Very truly yours,

*William O. Parker, Jr.*  
William O. Parker, Jr.

RWO:pw  
Attachment

cc: Director  
Office of Management & Program Analysis  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Bill Lavallee  
Nuclear Safety Analysis Center  
P. O. Box 10412  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

M. J. Graham  
Resident Inspector  
McGuire Nuclear Station

FE22  
5/11

McGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION  
INCIDENT REPORT

Report Number: 81-47

Report Date: April 23, 1981

Occurrence Date: April 8, 1981; 2110 hours

Facility: McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Cornelius, N. C.

Identification of Occurrence: The containment particulate radiation activity monitor, EMF-38, was declared inoperable due to a false, continuous high radiation alarm.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Mode 4, Hot Shutdown

Description of Occurrence: Personnel in the Control Room received a high radiation annunciator alarm on EMF-38 which could not be cleared. A survey indicated no activity greater than normal background levels. The EMF was, therefore, declared inoperable by the Shift Supervisor. This constituted a degraded mode of operation as stipulated by Technical Specification 3.3.3.1 and required going into action statement #25 of Table 3.6.

Apparent Cause: The high radiation alarm setpoints were set to a very low value. Consequently, the high radiation alarm sounded when radiation levels increased slightly above naturally occurring background levels.

Analysis of Occurrence: Prior to being declared inoperable, Operations had received several high radiation and low flow alarms on EMF-38. Health Physics technicians were dispatched several times to investigate. Each time, however, the surveys indicated that no radioactivity greater than normal background was present in their grab samples. These alarms would cease, following the advancement of the paper filter on the EMF.

Technicians tested the EMF and found everything to be in good working order. The alarm setpoints were modified to prohibit the recurrence of this problem. This item was cleared at 1430 hours on April 21, 1981.

Corrective Action: Health Physics collected and analyzed air samples from EMF-38/39/40 every eight (8) hours as stipulated by the appropriate Action Statement. Technicians checked out EMF-38 and modified the alarm setpoints. The alarm setpoints of this and all affected EMF's are currently being re-set to avoid any future problems.

Safety Evaluation: The health and safety of the public were not affected by this incident. No irradiated fuel or airborne radioactivity was present in the plant at the time of this occurrence.