DUKE POWER COMPANY
POWER BUILDING
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WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

TELEPHONE: AREA 704
373-4083

May 26, 1981

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-369/81-69. This report concerns cold leg accumulator 'D' being declared inoperable. 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.

RWO:pw
Attachment

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

Ms. M. J. Graham
Resident Inspector - NRC
McGuire Nuclear Station

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

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McGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION
INCIDENT REPORT

Report Number: 81-69

Report Date: May 26, 1981

Occurrence Date: April 26, 1981

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

Identification of Occurrence: Cold leg injection accumulator D was declared inoperable due to low water level.

Condition Prior to Occurrence: Mode 3, Hot Standby

Description of Occurrence: At 0630 hours on April 26, 1981, a cold leg accumulator D low level alarm was received in the Control Room. The level was below the minimum required by Technical Specification 3.5.1.1 (8261 gal.) and was thus reportable.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence: The safety injection (NI) test header was apparently leaking which allowed the accumulator to leak down just below its minimum setpoint.

Analysis of Occurrence: A periodic test, Reactor Coolant Pressure Isolation Valve Leak Rate Test, was performed April 25-28. This periodic test checked the leakage thru the cold leg accumulators' (A-D) discharge isolation check valves using the NI test header and the NI pumps. During the performance of the test, the NI pumps were cycled on and off several times and various electric valves were cycled oper and closed. It was during the performance of this test that the leak occurred. One of the discharge isolation check valves on accumulator D was also found to be leaking by its seat and this could have contributed to the leak thru the test header. The level was restored within its normal operating limits at 0645 hours, 15 minutes after the low level alarm was received.

Safety Analysis: The four cold leg accumulators are passive and would only be used during a loss-of-coolant accident. Since there was only new fuel in the core, safe plant operation and the health and safety of the public were not affected. If the reactor had been at power and a large reactor coolant break had occurred, accumulator D would have functioned as designed since its level was just below the minimum required by Technical Specifications. Also, the level was restored to within its normal limits only 15 minutes after the low level alarm was received. Furthermore, the accident analysis indicates that the contents of only three cold leg accumulators need to be injected in order to limit the peak fuel clad temperature at or below the maximum allowable during an accident.

Corrective Action: The accumulator level was restored to within specification at 0645 hours on April 26, 1981. A work request was written to repair the cold leg accumulator discharge isolation check valve. The valve will be leak tested after it is repaired.