

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Licensee Event Report  
Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/81-41/01P

Report Date

August 26, 1981

Occurrence Date

August 24, 1981

Identification of Occurrence

The Stack Gas activity was not continuously monitored as required by Technical Specification 3.6.A.3 due to a trip of the "A" Stack Gas Sample Pump.

This event is considered to be a reportable occurrence as defined in the Technical Specifications, paragraph 6.9.2.A.(2).

Conditions Prior to Occurrence

The plant was in the refuel mode at the time of the occurrence. Reactor temperatures were below 212°F and the reactor was vented.

Description of Occurrence

On Monday, August 24, 1981, at approximately 2200 hours the stack gas low flow alarm annunciated in the Control Room. An operator was dispatched to investigate the problem and found the "A" Stack Gas Pump tripped. The "B" Stack Gas Pump was placed in service but would not maintain a high enough vacuum to clear the stack gas low flow alarm. At 0230 the following morning, instrumentation personnel cleared the alarm by tightening the "B" pump suction piping fittings and by increasing pump flow.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence

The "A" Stack Gas Sample Pump tripped on thermal overload because of pump binding. This binding occurred because the pump's carbon vanes became brittle and failed during the pump's normal operation.

Analysis of Occurrence

A review of the Stack Gas Radiation Monitor Recorder showed the levels in both monitor channels to be constant (70 CPS) before and after this event. In a further effort to determine if excessive stack gas releases might have occurred during the event, a review of the Reactor Building ventilation exhaust radiation monitor recorder showed that the levels in both channels were relatively constant with no spiking.

The Augmented Off Gas System, the mechanical vacuum pump and the steam packing exhauster were secured during the event, and, therefore, could not provide additional radiological influents to the stack. Based on these considerations the safety significance of this event is considered minimal.

Corrective Action

The stack gas sample flow was returned to normal by placing the "B" Stack Gas Sample Pump in service. The "B" pump's suction fittings had to be tightened, and pump flow had to be increased, in order to clear the stack gas low flow alarm. The "A" Stack Gas Sample Pump was rebuilt on August 26.