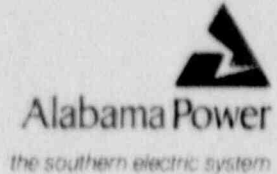


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W. G. Hairston, III
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Operations



April 23, 1990

Docket No. 50-364

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

SUBJECT: Reply to a Notice of Violation
J. M. Farley Nuclear Plant NRC Inspection of
February 26 - March 2, 1990

RE: Report Number 50-364/90-08-01

Gentlemen:

This letter refers to the violation cited in the subject inspection report which states:

"During the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspection conducted on February 26 to March 2, 1990, a violation of NRC requirements was identified. In accordance with the 'General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions,' 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1989), the violation is listed below:

Technical Specification 2.2.1 requires that the Power Range Neutron Flux Trip High Setpoint be less than or equal to 109% of RATED THERMAL POWER.

Contrary to the above, on May 24, 1989, at 10:05 p.m., the licensee increased the Power Range Flux Trip High Setpoint from an indicated 80% to an indicated 109% of RATED THERMAL POWER. This action was taken regardless of continuing observations made during power escalation (beginning on May 21, 1989) that the secondary side heat balance used to power calibrate the nuclear instruments was yielding power estimates significantly lower than turbine and primary side power measurements. During day shift on May 25, 1989, the licensee determined that instrument errors were causing the secondary side heat balance to indicate 48% RATED THERMAL POWER when the actual power was 55% RATED THERMAL POWER. Instrument calibrations were then in error by the ratio 55/48 placing the effective Power Range Flux Trip High Setpoint at 125% RATED THERMAL POWER.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement I)."

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Q PDC

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Admission or Denial

The above violation occurred as described in the subject reports.

Reason for Violation

This violation was caused by personnel error in that the high flux reactor trip setpoint was adjusted to 109% power prior to resolving discrepancies between indicated power and thermal power.

Corrective Action Taken and Results Achieved

1. The deficiencies on feedwater flow instruments were repaired.
2. The power range nuclear instruments were adjusted to read within two percent of actual power.

Corrective Steps to Avoid Further Violations

1. The lessons learned from this event were sent to all shift supervisors.
2. The return to service check list has been revised to ensure high flux trip setpoints are not raised from 80% to 109% until significant indicators (reactor coolant loop temperature differentials, calorimetric results, nuclear instrumentation readings, turbine power) are verified to be in agreement with reactor power.

Date of Full Compliance

April 3, 1990

Affirmation

I affirm that this response is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. The information contained in this letter is not considered to be of a proprietary nature.

Yours very truly,

W. G. Hairston III
W. G. Hairston, III

WGH:emb-5.14

cc: Mr. S. D. Ebnetter
Mr. S. T. Hoffman
Mr. G. F. Maxwell