



ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION • 89 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14649

KEITH W. AMISH  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
ELECTRIC AND STEAM



May 2, 1974

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations  
Region I  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Subject: Abnormal Occurrence 74-6: Failure of Valve 851B to open  
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1  
Docket No. 50-244

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

In accordance with Technical Specifications, Article 6.6.2a, the  
attached report of Abnormal Occurrence 74-6 is hereby submitted.

Very truly yours,  
*Keith W. Amish*  
Keith W. Amish

Attachment

xc: Mr. John F. O'Leary

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1. Report Number: 50-244/74-6
- 2a. Report Date: May 2, 1974
- 2b. Occurrence Date: April 22, 1974
3. Facility: R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1
4. Identification of Occurrence:

This abnormal occurrence is defined by Technical Specifications Article 1.9 d: Failure of one or more components of an engineered safety feature or plant protection system that causes or threatens to cause the feature or system to be incapable of performing its intended function.

5. Conditions Prior to Occurrence:

Routine heatup from Cold Shutdown to Hot Shutdown  
Primary System Pressure 1,000 psig  
Primary System Temperature 380°F.

6. Description of Occurrence:

At approximately 1530 hours on April 22, 1974, the control board operator attempted to open Containment Sump B outlet to Residual Heat Removal Pump suction valve 851B electrically from the Control Board to position it for its normal operating condition. When the valve failed to open the electricians noted that the motor was drawing an excessive current load. A mechanic and a pipefitter entered the Containment and were able to manually move the valve disc off the valve seat. Once the valve was disengaged from the seat the valve was capable of electrical operation. The valve was stroked three times with no difficulty. The running current was measured at 1.8 Amps to open and close the valve and the torque close current reading was 2.0 Amps.

7. Designation of Apparent Cause:

The cause of the failure of the valve to open is due to its being too tightly seated in the closed position. A definite cause for the valve being seated so tightly has not been determined, but it is believed that it was due to pressure developed between valves 850B and 851B. The pipe between the valves was full of water and the RHR system on the opposite side of valve 850B was heated to approximately 300°F before the Residual Heat Removal System was removed from service. Heat transmitted through the valve 850B would cause pressure to develop in a solid system between valves 850B and 851B.

8. Analysis of Occurrence:

During plant operation this valve is normally opened so that a need for its opening does not exist. If, however, it were to fail in the closed position when it was needed for recirculation of the water in the Containment following a loss of coolant accident, valve 851A would still be available to supply suction from Containment Sump B.

9. Corrective Action:

Proper operation of the valve was verified before returning it to service. The operating procedures for plant heatup are being reviewed and changed to allow for the valve to be opened prior to system heatup.

10. Failure Data:

- a. This valve previously had failed to close fully on October 14, 1970 due to a loosened stem nut locknut.
- b. The valve is a Darling Valve and Manufacturing Company Motor Operated 10" Gate Valve.