

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

APPROVED OMB NO. 3150-0104

EXPIRES 8/31/85

FACILITY NAME (1) Limerick Generating Station Unit 1	DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 3 5 2 8 5	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)		
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
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TEXT (if more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A) (17)

Description of the Event:

On January 24, 1985, at 9:30 a.m., with Unit 1 at 4 percent power, the main control room ventilation system isolation valves were placed in an alignment which allowed the control room air pressure to become negative with respect to the turbine enclosure air pressure by isolating the fresh air makeup and not isolating the toilet room exhaust. The control room is normally maintained at a slightly higher pressure than the turbine enclosure during the normal mode and radiation isolation mode of operation so that any leakage at the control room - turbine enclosure boundary will be from the control room to the turbine enclosure. A negative control room air pressure is outside of the control room atmosphere design basis since calculations for the control room habitability are based on a positive value during the normal mode of operation.

Consequences of the Event:

Since the turbine enclosure atmosphere was not contaminated at the time of the event, there were no adverse consequences. Any contaminants would have been detected and alarmed by an area radiation monitor inside the control room, and a continuous air monitor outside of the control room entrance. If the turbine enclosure atmosphere had been contaminated, the potential for drawing contaminated air into the control room existed and could have affected control room habitability. This was not likely, however, since the reactor was only at 4 percent power at the time of the event.

Cause of the Event:

At the time of the event, the control room ventilation system inlet and outlet isolation valves were blocked in the closed position for maintenance. The blocking was inadequate in that the toilet room exhaust line was not included in the block. As a result, the control room ventilation system was placed in a recirculation mode, with a small portion of the flow being exhausted through the unblocked toilet room exhaust fan, and no makeup air flow path available.

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Failure to isolate the fan from the control room resulted in the control room pressure being pulled negative with respect to the turbine enclosure thereby placing the control ventilation system outside of its design basis.

Corrective Actions:

Upon discovery of the abnormal pressure condition at 11:30 a.m. on January 24, 1985, the control room ventilation system was immediately placed in the radiation mode of operation. This action isolated the toilet room exhaust fan from the control room and allowed the pressure differential to return to an acceptable value.

In the radiation isolation mode, filtered outside air is used to pressurize the control room. Shift operators have been advised to initiate a radiation isolation manually if a low pressure condition is observed.

A modification request has been written to install a device which will actuate an alarm when an abnormal control room/turbine enclosure pressure differential condition exists. If approved, an alarm card will be generated for this annunciator with instructions concerning how to respond to the alarm.

Additionally, the blocking sequences for the control room ventilation system will be reviewed and revised as necessary to include the toilet room exhaust fan and toilet room exhaust fan isolation valves. These revisions will be completed by June 1, 1985.

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February 22, 1985

Docket No. 50-352

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: Licensee Event Report
Limerick Generating Station - Unit 1

This LER concerns the operation of the control room ventilation system outside of its design basis.

Reference:	Docket No. 50-352
Report Number:	85-017
Revision Number:	00
Event Date:	January 24, 1985
Report Date:	February 22, 1985
Facility:	Limerick Generating Station P.O. Box A, Sanatoga, PA 19464

This LER is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(ii).

Very truly yours,



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Superintendent
Nuclear Generation Division

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IE22
1/1

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January 16, 1985