

James A. FitzPatrick
Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 41
Lycoming, New York 13093
315 342-3840



**New York Power
Authority**

Harry P. Salmon, Jr.
Resident Manager

November 9, 1992
JAFP-92-0783

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: DOCKET NO. 50-333
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT: 92-045-00 - FIRE WATCH
POST NOT MAINTAINED DUE
TO PERSONNEL ERROR BY A
FIRE WATCHPERSON

Dear Sir:

This report is submitted in accordance with 10 CFR
50.73(a)(2)(i)(B).

Questions concerning this report may be addressed to
Mr. David Holliday at (315) 349-6359.

Very truly yours,

HARRY P. SALMON, JR.

HPS:DAH:tld
Enclosure

cc: USNRC, Region I
USNRC Resident Inspector
INPO Records Center

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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 500 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P-530), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

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TITLE (4)

Fire Watch Post Not Maintained Due to Personnel Error by a Fire Watchperson

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)													
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOC. # NUMBER(S)												
1	0	1	2	9	2	9	2	0	4	5	0	0	1	1	0	9	9	2				
OPERATING MODE (9)		N		20 402(b)		20 406(c)		60 73(a)(2)(iv)		73.71(b)												
POWER LEVEL (10)		0 0 0		20 406(a)(1)(i)		60 36(c)(1)		60 73(a)(2)(iv)		73.71(c)												
				20 406(a)(1)(ii)		60 36(c)(2)		60 73(a)(2)(iv)		OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)												
				20 406(a)(1)(iii)		60 73(a)(2)(i)		60 73(a)(2)(viii)(A)														
				20 406(a)(1)(iv)		60 73(a)(2)(ii)		60 73(a)(2)(viii)(B)														
				20 406(a)(1)(v)		60 73(a)(2)(iii)		60 73(a)(2)(i)														

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME

David Holliday, Senior Licensing Engineer

TELEPHONE NUMBER

AREA CODE

3 1 5 3 4 9 - 6 3 5 9

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NRC	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NRC

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)

MONTH DAY YEAR

YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)

X NO

ABSTRACT (Limit to 7400 spaces, i.e., approximately fifteen single-spaced typewritten lines) (16)

EIS Codes are in []

Abstract

The plant was shutdown and in the cold condition for maintenance and refuel. On October 12, a continuous fire watch post was not maintained as required by Technical Specifications 3.12.F or as required to meet other commitments due to personnel error (Cause Code A). On that date, a fire watchperson was discovered inattentive to the assigned post in the Emergency Service Watch Room [MK] approximately 15 minutes after the watchperson had assumed the post. The event was not safety significant due to the short time interval, the areas being watched, the installed fire detection and suppression systems, and the plant conditions. Corrective actions involved immediate re-establishment of the fire watch, disciplinary action, and continuing reinforcement of procedural requirements.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 500 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P-530), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND / THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 305A's) (17)

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Description

The plant was shutdown and in the cold condition for maintenance and refuel. During the month of October, approximately 34 fire watches were on duty to provide compensatory action for deficiencies in fire barrier penetrations, fire suppression systems, 10CFR50, Appendix R requirements (see LER-91-024, 92-004, 92-015, and 92-017) and to support maintenance and modification activities.

On October 12, 1992, a continuous fire watch was not maintained as required by Technical Specifications, Section 3.12.F, or as required to meet commitments contained in correspondence to the NRC. The situation involved fire watch personnel error (Cause Code A).

A fire watch had been assigned to a post in the Emergency Service Water (ESW) [BI] Pump Room [MK] because of a problem with a fire damper in a three hour fire barrier between that room and the west Diesel Fire Pump Room. At approximately 0300 hours, a fire watch supervisor was performing post checks verifying that fire watch personnel were in place and familiar with the fire watch post instructions.

At approximately 0315 hours, the fire watch supervisor arrived at the fourth post to find the assigned fire watchperson inattentive to the assigned post (apparently dozing), in violation of site procedures. The supervisor observed this situation for approximately six minutes and then confronted the fire watch.

The Shift Supervisor was notified. The watchperson was relieved from duty by another fire watchperson. The watchperson met with the supervisor and admitted to being inattentive to the fire watch post.

The ESW and West Fire Pump Rooms have separate smoke detection circuits [IC] which alarm in the Main Control Room [NA]. The ESW Pump Room also has heat detection circuits which tie into a panel which, in addition to alarming in the Control Room, closes fire doors and fire dampers in the unlikely event of a fire affecting the ESW Pump Room. The West Diesel Fire Pump Room also has a wet pipe sprinkler system [KP] which, if activated by heat melting the sprinkler head fusible link, would alarm in the Control Room.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 600 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P-830), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (5150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

Hourly patrolling fire watches, fire watch supervisors, and operators pass through the room occasionally. Fire watch posts are rotated hourly to improve alertness. The watchperson had been on the post for approximately 15 minutes and no work activities involving ignition sources or transient combustibles were being performed on either side of the barriers.

Cause

The brief lapse in providing compensatory action in the form of a fire watch was due to personnel error, specifically a fire watchperson violated procedures on which he had been trained and repeatedly reminded of during staff meetings.

Corrective actions taken as a result of previous incidents (LERs-92-001, 92-006, 92-010, 92-030, and 92-042) helped to minimize the brief lapse in providing the compensatory action and assisted in prompt reestablishment of the continuous fire watch. Additional fire watch supervisors, on site 24 hours a day checking on fire watch posts, and improved communication with operations personnel lead to quick discovery of the lapse and prompt re-establishment of the fire watch post with other continuous fire watch personnel. Procedures and training are in place and are constantly emphasized to the fire watch personnel which specify requirements for maintaining alertness and performing fire watch relief and acknowledgement. The situation would have been averted if the individual had adhered to these requirements.

Analysis

The failure to maintain the continuous fire watch posted for 15 minutes, at most, resulted in a violation of Technical Specification 3.12.F.2. As a result, the event requires a report under 10CFR50.73 (a)(2)(i)(B); that is, an operation prohibited by the plant technical specifications.

This event is not significant from a safety point of view because of the short time involved and because the fire watch supervisor was patrolling the general area. Also, as discussed in the Description Section, both areas had operating smoke detection circuits, the ESW Pump Room had additional heat detection circuits, and the Diesel Fire Pump Room had an alarmed wet pipe sprinkler system.

There were no work activities being performed that would add transient combustibles or add ignition sources to either of the areas at the times the fire watch was inattentive on duty. The areas are visited by operating personnel on a regular basis and by fire watch personnel and supervisors traveling to and from other posts. As a result, any

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TEXT CONTINUATION

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P-530), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20556, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

Analysis (con'd)

postulated fire would have been discovered or electronically detected quickly and could have been suppressed using fire extinguishers or installed hose stations.

The ESW Pump Room contains three safety related service water pumps and associated components, and a motor driven fire pump and its associated components and control panel. The sprinklered West Diesel Fire Pump Room contains a diesel driven vertical pump, its associated components and control panel, and on the wall opposite the fire damper, a 275 gallon fuel oil tank with an oil spill containment dike. There were no transient combustibles in the immediate area of the fire damper and the permanent fire loading on the wall is considered low.

The failure to maintain the continuous fire watch post also was not significant from a plant safety point of view due, in part, to the fact that the plant had been shutdown since November 28, 1991 (approximately 320 days). A similar occurrence (i.e., personnel error by fire watch personnel) during other plant conditions, such as during power operation is possible. However, most of the fire protection deficiencies requiring the fire watches are currently being fixed or repaired such that the number of required fire watches will be reduced prior to plant operation, thereby reducing the probability of similar occurrences.

Corrective Actions

1. The post was re-established with other qualified fire watch personnel within minutes of discovery bringing the plant into compliance with the Technical Specifications.
2. The situations and consequences described in this LER, has been reviewed by all compensatory fire watch personnel along with reinforcement of relevant procedural requirements and expectations for high standards of personnel performance. Completion date: November 9, 1992.
3. The fire watchperson who failed to follow instructions and procedures had his employment terminated.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 500 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (F-530), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 365A's) (17)

Additional Information

Failed Components: None

Previous Similar Events: LERs-92-001, 92-006, 92-030 and 92-042 describe similar fire watch performance deficiencies. LERs-92-010, 92-019, and 92-025 describe other missed fire watches due to supervisory or procedural deficiencies.

Related Industry Experience:

1. NRC Information Notice 87-21, Shutdown order issued because Licensed Operators were asleep on duty.
2. NRC Information Notice 85-53, Performance of NRC Licensed Individuals while on duty.