



September 26, 1996

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

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This Special Report is submitted in accordance with LaSalle Unit 1 and 2 Operating Licenses NPF -11 and NPF-18, Appendix A, and Technical Specification 3.7.5.1 and 6.6.C.

Technical Specification 3.7.5.2 requires that the deluge and sprinkler systems of Unit 1 and Unit 2 shown in Table 3.7.5.2-1 shall be OPERABLE whenever the equipment protected by the deluge/sprinkler systems are required to be OPERABLE.

On Tuesday, August 20, 1996 a leak at the Vitalic coupling upstream of the isolation valve for the sprinkler system protecting the cable areas above the laboratories was discovered. The system was taken out of service (OOS) and the appropriate compensatory measures per T.S. 3.7.5.2 were implemented (i.e., fire impairment and fire watches). Over the next 14 days a new gasket was installed and additional maintenance on the air compressor were performed. On Sunday September 1, 1996 an attempt to return the system to service was performed. This attempt failed because the compressor could not maintain the required pressure. It was determined that the new seal would not properly seat until the system was pressurized to at least 90 psi. On Tuesday September 3, 1996 the system was pressurized using fire protection system pressure, approximately 130 psi at the riser, and the new seal still failed to maintain system pressure. The Maintenance Department and the system engineer inspected the piping after it was again disassembled and found a hole had developed in the coupling groove. This hole was the cause of the leak. The affected section of pipe was cut out and a new section and vitalic coupling were installed. The system was pressured and maintained system pressure as required.

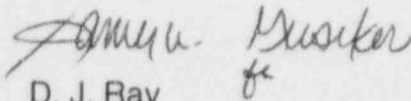
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In accordance with the ACTION statement for T.S. 3.7.5.2, an hourly fire watch was established on August 20, 1996 in the unprotected area. The fire watch continued until September 11, 1996 when the system was successfully returned to service.

If there are any questions or comments concerning this letter, please refer them to me at (815) 357-6761, extension 2212.

Respectfully,



D. J. Ray
Station Manager
LaSalle County Station

cc: A. B. Beach, NRC Region III Administrator
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