



SEP 19 1996
September 4, 1996

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: 30-Day Report of Incident - Criticality Warning System Failure

References: (1) Docket 70-1113, NRC License SNM-1097
(2) NRC Regulation 10 CFR 70.50

In accordance with 10 CFR 70.50(c)(2), GE Nuclear Energy Production hereby submits the required written report for an August 8, 1996 incident involving a temporary failure of 6 criticality warning system horns. This incident was reported by telephone on August 9, 1996, by Lon Paulson to the NRC Operations Center in accordance with 10 CFR 70.50(b)(4).

On August 8, 1996, at approximately 7:30 a.m., it was discovered that three of the criticality warning system horns were inoperable within the fuel manufacturing operation. Subsequent testing revealed three additional inoperable horns. Operations were immediately suspended, and movement of fissile material was halted in all affected areas. The system was repaired and tested, and normal operations resumed on August 8, 1996, at approximately 6:20 p.m.

The event was reported within 24 hours pursuant to 10 CFR 70.50(b)(2) as a failure of equipment required by regulation to be available and operable to mitigate the consequences of an accident. There were no personnel exposures to radiation or radioactive materials, nor were there releases of licensed material as a result of this event.

The investigation results, along with corrective actions, are summarized in Attachment 1. The investigation determined that the failure occurred in the Autocall system manufactured by Federal Signal (model no. D5290-003). Two inoperable amplifiers (model no. D5290-023) were identified and replaced.

If additional information is needed regarding the event, I can be contacted at (910) 675-5889.

Sincerely,

GE NUCLEAR ENERGY

Ralph J. Reda, Manager
Fuels & Facility Licensing

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C PDR

Attachment

cc: RJR-96-102

S. D. Ebnetter, Region II Administrator

IF 72%

REPORTABLE EVENT

08/08/96 EVENT

- FAILURE OF SIX CRITICALITY WARNING SYSTEM (CWS) HORNS IN THE FUEL MANUFACTURING OPERATION.

CAUSE

- AMPLIFIER FAILURE ON PARALLEL CIRCUITRY.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- SUSPENDED OPERATIONS AND HALTED MOVEMENT OF FISSILE MATERIAL IN ALL AFFECTED AREAS.
- REMOVED PERSONNEL FROM ALL AFFECTED AREAS.
- DIAGNOSED, REPAIRED AND FUNCTIONALLY TESTED THE CWS.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE

- EVALUATE AND DOCUMENT REDUNDANT HORN AUDIBILITY COVERAGE.
- EVALUATE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROUTINE FUNCTIONAL TEST OF HORNS.
- UPDATE ALL DRAWINGS OF CWS HORN CIRCUITRY.