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Writer's Direct Dial Number

May 15, 1980
TLL 235

Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Attn: B. H. Grier, Director
Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit II (TMI-2)
Operating License No. DPR-73
Docket No. 50-320
Licensee Event Report 80-013/01L-0

Attached please find Licensee Event Report 80-013/01L-0 concerning the failure of Incore Thermocouple L-6 on April 14, 1980.

This event is a violation of section 3.3.3.6 Table 3.10 item 10 and is reportable under section 6.9.1.8 of the Interim Recovery Technical Specifications.

Sincerely,

G. K. Hovey
Director, TMI-II

GKH:SDC:hah

Attachments

cc: J. T. Collins
~~_____~~

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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT

CONTROL BLOCK: _____ (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION)

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00

CON'T
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00

EVENT DESCRIPTION AND PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES (10)

0 2 Incore Thermocouple L-6 began to exhibit erratic behavior, therefore, in accordance with Technical Specification 3.3.3.6 Table 3.3-10, item 10 this report is submitted. This event had no adverse affects on the facility or the natural circulation heat removal from the core. At the present time there are 4 failed thermocouples (E-11, G-5, L-6, L-13). This will represent the baseline against which interpretations of reportability will be judged. Note: 1) G-5 failed on 3/21/80 and was not reported; 2) O-12 failed until approx. 3/3/80 then became operable again.

0 9 SYSTEM CODE: X X (11) CAUSE CODE: E (12) CAUSE SUBCODE: X (13) COMPONENT CODE: I N S T R U (14) COMP SUBCODE: E (15) VALVE SUBCODE: Z (16)

17 LER/RO REPORT NUMBER: 8 0 (21) EVENT YEAR: 8 0 (22) SEQUENTIAL REPORT NO.: 0 1 3 (24) OCCURRENCE CODE: / (27) REPORT TYPE: L (30) REVISION NO.: 0 (32)

18 Z (33) 19 Z (34) 20 Z (35) 21 Z (36) 22 0 0 0 0 (37) HOURS 23 Y (41) ATTACHMENT SUBMITTED 24 N (42) NRPD-4 FORM SUB. 25 N (43) PRIME COMP. SUPPLIER 26 B 1 5 5 (44) COMPONENT MANUFACTURER 27

CAUSE DESCRIPTION AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS (27)

1 0 The reason for the failure of Thermocouple L-6 is not known and may not be possible to determine given the condition of the Unit II core relative to incore instrumentation. No actions will be taken relative to thermocouple failure.

1 5 FACILITY STATUS: X (28) % POWER: 0 0 0 (29) OTHER STATUS: Recover Mode (30) METHOD OF DISCOVERY: B (31) DISCOVERY DESCRIPTION: Operator review of thermocouple data printout (32)

1 6 ACTIVITY CONTENT RELEASED OF RELEASE: Z (33) Z (34) AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY: N/A (35) LOCATION OF RELEASE: N/A (36)

1 7 PERSONNEL EXPOSURES NUMBER: 0 0 0 (37) TYPE: Z (38) DESCRIPTION: N/A (39)

1 4 PERSONNEL INJURIES NUMBER: 0 0 0 (40) DESCRIPTION: N/A (41)

1 3 LOSS OF OR DAMAGE TO FACILITY TYPE: Z (42) DESCRIPTION: N/A (43)

2 0 PUBLICITY ISSUED DESCRIPTION: Z (44) N/A (45)

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT

NARRATIVE REPORT

TMI-II

LER 80-013/01L-0

EVENT DATE-APRIL 15, 1980

I. EXPLANATION OF OCCURRENCE

Incore Thermocouple L-6 began to exhibit erratic behavior; therefore, in accordance with Technical Specification 3.3.3.6 Table 3.3-10 Item 10, this report is being submitted.

During the investigation it was learned that through an oversight, another Incore Thermocouple G-5 had failed on March 21, 1980 and was never reported. The failure on Thermocouple G-5 was not viewed as an additional thermocouple failure. Previous to March, 1980, there were three (3) failed thermocouples (E-11, L-13, O-12). On March 3, 1980 Thermocouple O-12 began to provide good data again. When G-5 failed on March 21, 1980 the status returned to three (3) failed thermocouples.

At the present time, there are four (4) failed thermocouples (E-11, G-5, L-6, L-13). This will represent the baseline against which interpretation of reportability will be judged. Note: 1) G-5 failed on March 21, 1980 and was not reported; 2) O-12 failed until approximately March 3, 1980, then became operable again.

II. CAUSE OF THE OCCURRENCE

The precise reason for the failure/erratic behavior of Incore Thermocouple L-6 is not known and may not be possible to determine given the condition of the Unit II core relative to incore instrumentation.

III. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE OCCURRENCE

At the time of the occurrence, the Unit II facility was in a long term cold shutdown state. The reactor decay heat was being removed via natural circulation to the A steam generator which is operating in a 'steaming' mode. Throughout the event there was no effect on the Reactor Coolant System or the core.

IV. CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN

No immediate action insofar as the failed Incore Thermocouple is concerned is applicable.

No long term action is considered applicable insofar as the Incore Thermocouple is concerned. However, with regard to identifying and assuring prompt reporting of future failures, the operators responsible for routing printout and review of Incore Thermocouple data have been instructed of the requirement to treat a thermocouple failure as a prompt reportable event.

V. COMPONENT FAILURE DATA

The failed thermocouple was a Type K (Chromium/Alumel) thermocouple, Model No. DAZA-76-7R-1B-1T-1C supplied by Babcock & Wilcox and manufactured by Bel Fab, Inc. The failure mechanism, although unknown, was caused by core conditions resulting from the accident on March 28, 1979.