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

Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit II (TMI-2)  
Operating License No. DPR-73  
Docket No. 50-320  
Licensee Event Report 81-06/03L-0

Attached please find Licensee Event Report 81-06/03L-0 concerning the "A" Emergency Diesel Generator trip on February 26, 1981.

This event concerns Section 3.8.1.1(a) and is considered reportable under Section 6.9.1.9(b) of the Interim Recovery Technical Specifications.

Sincerely,

/ S /  G. K. HOVEY

G. K. Hovey  
Vice-President and  
Director, TMI-2

Attachments

cc: L. Barrett, Deputy Program Director  
V. Stello, Director I & E  
c/o Document Management Branch
On February 26, 1981 at 0525 hours the "A" Emergency Diesel Generator DF-X-1A was started per surveillance requirements. The diesel started, accelerated to speed and then tripped after approximately 15-20 seconds. This is not a violation of Tech. Specs. This report is made pursuant to section 6.9.1.9(b) of the Tech. Specs. because the action statement of Spec. 3.8.1.1(a) was entered unintentionally. This event had no effect on the plant, its operation, or the health and safety of the public.

The trip was initially thought to be the result of insufficient prelube but this was later discounted. At present, no other cause can be identified. To investigate other possible causes, brush recorders are being installed to monitor several components in the starting circuitry. Once installed, the diesels will be started under varying conditions in an attempt to isolate the cause.
I. EXPLANATION OF OCCURRENCE

At 0525 hours on February 26, 1981, the A Emergency Diesel Generator, DF-X-1A, was started per surveillance requirements. The diesel started, accelerated to speed and then tripped after approximately 15-20 seconds. The cause of the failure was investigated by the operators. The operators determined the problem was probably due to inadequate prelube. The problem was corrected and the diesel was started at 0545 hours. The diesel was declared operable at 0652 hours after completion of the operability surveillance.

This is not a violation of Technical Specifications. This report is submitted pursuant to Section 6.9.1.9(b) of the Tech. Specs. because action statement 3.8.1.1(a) was entered unintentionally.

II. CAUSE OF THE OCCURRENCE

Inadequate prelube of the diesel was later discounted as the cause of this failure.

To investigate other possible causes for this failure, brush recorders are being installed to monitor several components in the starting circuitry. Once these recorders are installed the diesels will be started under varying conditions, attempting to isolate any faults.

During the investigation of this failure it was determined that scavenger air pressure was approximately 50% of normal. This was possibly a contributing factor in this diesel failure.

III. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE OCCURRENCE

At the time of the occurrence, the Unit 2 facility was in a long-term cold shutdown state. The reactor decay heat was being removed via loss to ambient. Throughout the event there was no effect on the Reactor Coolant System or the core.

IV. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN

IMMEDIATE

The apparent problem was corrected, the diesel started and the surveillance completed to show operability.
LONG TERM

Work request to replace the combustion air intake filter media has been submitted. Other long term corrective actions are pending a determination of actual cause.

V. COMPONENT FAILURE DATA

N/A