NON-PUBLIC?: N
ACCESSION #: 8803010014

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME: Three Mile Island Unit 2 PAGE: 1 of 4

DOCKET NUMBER: 05000320

TITLE: Inoperability of the TMI-2 Wind Speed Indicator Due to Inclement Weather Conditions
EVENT DATE: 01/26/88 LER #: 88-003-00 REPORT DATE: 02/22/88

OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED:
FACILITY NAME: TMI-1 DOCKET #: 05000289

OPERATING MODE: N POWER LEVEL: 000

THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR SECTION
50.73(a)(2)(i)

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER:
NAME: Russell D. Wells, TMI-2 Licensing Engineer
TELEPHONE #: 717-948-8693

COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIPTION:
CAUSE: C SYSTEM: IS COMPONENT: SR MANUFACTURER: T039
REPORTABLE TO NPRDS: N

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED: No

ABSTRACT: At 1515 hours on January 26, 1988, the wind speed recorder in the TMI-2 Control Room was declared inoperable due to inclement weather conditions. The accumulation of snow in the 100'elevation anemometer cups located on the meteorological tower impeded the operation of the anemometer. The TMI meteorological tower wind speed indicator averaged approximately 50% less than the National Weather Service (NWS) wind speed indication. The NWS has sensors located at the Harrisburg International Airport which is in close proximity to TMI. The inclement weather conditions precluded the ability to manually clear the snow in the anemometer cups. Due to the inoperable wind speed indicator, the unit was placed into the action of Technical Specification (Tech. Spec.) 3.3.3.4 which has a 8-hour timeclock. At 2315 hours on January 26, 1988, the timeclock was exceeded, thus, this event is reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B). The weather conditions improved the next day and the wind speed recorder was

restored to an operable status at 1245 hours on January 27, l988. The root cause of this event was adverse weather conditions which impaired the operation of the anemometers, thus, resulting in an abnormal wind speed indication. TMI-2 Technical Specification Change Request No. 53 requests, in part, to increase the Action Statement timeclock for Tech. Spec. 3.3.3.4 to seven (7) days which will minimize the potential for future similar type events.

(End of Abstract)

I. PLANT OPERATING CONDITIONS BEFORE THE EVENT

The TMI-2 facility was in a long-term cold shutdown state; the defueling evolution was in progress. The reactor decay heat was being removed via loss to ambient. Throughout this event there was no affect on the Reactor Coolant System or the core.

II. STATUS OF STRUCTURES, COMPONENTS, OR SYSTEMS THAT WERE INOPERABLE AT
THE START OF THE EVENT AND THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE EVENT

N/A

III. EVENT DESCRIPTION

At 1515 hours on January 26, 1988, the wind speed recorder (IEEE 803A Code-SR) in the TMI-2 Control Room (IEEE 805 Code-NA was declared inoperable due to inclement weather conditions (i.e., snow and freezing temperatures). TMI-2 Technical Specification (Tech. Spec.) Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.3.3.4 requires the meteorological monitoring instrumentation channels (IEEE 805 Code-IS) of Recovery Operations Plan (ROP) Table 4.3-5 to be operable. Indicators for the wind speed recorder exists in the Unit 2 Control Room, Unit 1 Control Room, and the Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) located off-site.

The inoperability of the wind speed recorder was determined by comparing the indications at the above locations and the wind speed from the National Weather Service (NWS). The NWS has a wind speed indicator at the Harrisburg International Airport which is in close proximity to TMI. The average TMI meteorological tower wind speed indication was approximately 50% less than the NWS wind speed indication. For example, at 1500 hours, the 100' elevation "B" anemometer on the TMI meteorological tower indicated a wind speed of approximately four (4) mph as compared to the NWS wind speed indication

of approximately nine (9) mph. Observation of the anemometer cups indicated that they were filled with snow. The weight of the accumulated snow impeded the operation of the anemometers and caused the abnormal wind speed indication.

The inoperability of the wind speed indicator placed the unit into the Action Statement of TMI-2 Tech. Spec. 3.3.3.4 which requires the restoration of at least one (1) channel to operable status within 8 hours. However, the inclement weather impaired the capability to restore the wind speed indicator to an operable status within this timeclock. Thus, at 2315 hours on January 26, 1988, the 8-hour timeclock was exceeded. This event resulted in a condition prohibited by the Plant's Technical Specifications and as such is reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B).

Weather conditions improved the next day and the wind speed indicator was restored to an operable status at 1245 hours on January 27, 1988, based on a comparison of the meteorological tower and NWS wind speed indications.

IV. ROOT CAUSE OF THE EVENT

The root cause of this event was adverse weather conditions which impeded the operation of the anemometer, thus, resulting in an abnormal wind speed indication. Due to the weather conditions, the accumulated snow in the anemometer was unable to be manually removed.

V. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Short-Term - Upon declaring the Unit 2 wind speed indicator inoperable, the Site Operations and Environmental Controls Departments determined that, in the event of an emergency, accurate and reliable wind speed indication could be obtained from the NWS. Additionally, as a result of improved weather conditions, the wind speed indicator was restored to an operable status at 1245 hours on January 27, 1988.

Long-Term - TMI-2 Technical Specification Change Request (TSCR) No. 53 (reference GPU Nuclear letter 4410-87-L-0042, dated April 23, 1987) proposed, in part, to increase the Action Statement timeclock for Tech. Spec. 3.3.3.4 to seven (7) days. This change will minimize the potential for future similar type events. GPU Nuclear expects NRC approval of this TSCR in late March 1988. GPU Nuclear believes that no further corrective actions are necessary.

VI. COMPONENT FAILURE DATA

Component

a. Wind Speed Indicator: Manufactured by Taylor Instrument Co.
Model 830 J

b. 100' Elevation Anemometer: Manufactured by Teledyne Geotech
Model 50.1

VII. AUTOMATIC OR MANUALLY INITIATED SAFETY SYSTEM RESPONSES

N/A

VIII. ASSESSMENT OF THE SAFETY CONSEQUENCES AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE EVENT

The basis for the operability of the meteorological instrumentation is to ensure sufficient meteorological data is available for estimating potential radiation doses to the public as a result of routine or accidental releases of radioactive materials to the atmosphere. The wind speed indicator in the Unit 2 Control Room provides an immediate readout for the anemometer at the sation meteorological tower. The wind speed indicator is also linked directly to the Unit 1 Control Room and the EOF. Though the wind speed indication at these locations was inoperable, reliable and accurate wind speed indication was available from the NWS, based on information from the Harrisburg International Airport which is in close proximity to TMI. Thus, this event did not jeopardize the health and safety of the public.

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February 22, 1988
4410-88-L-0021/0354P

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sirs:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI-2)
Operating License No. DPR-73
Docket No. 50-320
Licensee Event Report 88-03

Attached is Licensee Event Report 88-03 concerning the inoperability of the Unit 2 Wind Speed Indicator.

This event is considered reportable pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 50.73(a)(2)(i(B).

Sincerely,
/s/ F. R. Standerfer
F. R. Standerfer

Director, TMI-2

RDW/emf

Attachment

cc: TMI-1, NRC Resident Inspector - R. J. Conte
Regional Administrator, Region 1 - W. T. Russell
Director, TMI-2 Cleanup Project Directorate, NRC - Dr. W. D. Travers

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