

Catawba 1

1Q/2005 Plant Inspection Findings

Initiating Events

G**Significance:** Mar 31, 2005

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Insufficient Fire Drill Oversight to Ensure Fire Brigade Performance Deficiencies are Identified

The inspectors identified a non-cited violation of Facility Operating Licenses NPF-35 (Unit 1) and NPF-52 (Unit 2), Condition 2.C.5, for the failure to implement the provisions of the approved fire protection program (Branch Technical Position CMEB 9.5-1) set forth in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) regarding fire brigade training and drills. Specifically, during the fire drill on February 10, 2005, the drill evaluator did not observe and assess the performance of the three teams attacking the simulated hydrogen fire on the Unit 2 main generator or operators in the main control room. As a result, some fire brigade member performance weaknesses were not noted during the drill, discussed during the post-drill critique or subsequently noted for development of appropriate corrective actions. The licensee recognized the drill team deficiency and implemented a change that required adequate team evaluators for future drills. This finding was determined to be greater than minor because it involved the degradation of a plant fire protection feature and has a credible impact on safety since fire brigade performance deficiencies may prevent a fire from being extinguished or allow a fire to propagate leading to a more significant event. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance in accordance with Phase 1 of the Fire Protection Significance Determination Process because the fire brigade is only a single element of the defense-in-depth fire protection strategy and the noted deficiencies produced a minimal impact on the fire fighting capabilities of the fire brigade. This finding involved the cross-cutting aspect of Human Performance, since the single evaluator did not identify all of the drill deficiencies that occurred during the drill. (Section 1R05.2)

Inspection Report# : [2005002\(pdf\)](#)**G****Significance:** Mar 31, 2005

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Inadequate RCS Leakage Detection Instrumentation Surveillance Procedures

The inspectors identified a non-cited violation of Technical Specification 5.4.1.a, Written Procedures, because the licensee failed to establish and maintain an adequate surveillance procedure for containment atmosphere radioactivity monitor surveillance requirement (SR) 3.4.15.2 and SR 3.4.15.4, in that the associated alarm function was not set or tested to alarm at a value equivalent to 1 gallon per minute in one hour for a realistic current reactor coolant activity level. The inspectors identified a non-cited violation of Technical Specification 5.4.1.a, Written Procedures, because the licensee failed to establish and maintain an adequate surveillance procedure for containment atmosphere radioactivity monitor surveillance requirement (SR) 3.4.15.2 and SR 3.4.15.4, in that the associated alarm function was not set or tested to alarm at a value equivalent to 1 gallon per minute in one hour for a realistic current reactor coolant activity level.

The finding was determined to be greater than minor because the containment gaseous and particulate channel radiation monitors were not capable of performing the design bases function for an extended period of time. Additionally, the operability of the reactor coolant system (RCS) leakage detection instrumentation alarming functions was not verified for an extended period of time. The inoperability resulted in potential impact on reactor safety and adversely affected the availability and reliability of the barrier integrity equipment performance attribute of the initiating events cornerstone. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because other methods of reactor coolant system leak detection were available to the licensee and no actual leakage above 1gpm was indicated through the RCS water balance surveillance. The unavailability of the gaseous and particulate channel leak detection functions and the RCS leakage detection instrumentation alarm indications did not contribute to an increase in core damage sequences when evaluated using the significance determination phase 1 worksheets. This finding involved the cross-cutting aspect of problem identification and resolution. The licensee had evaluated the operability of the radiation monitors via the corrective action program and incorrectly determined that the radiation monitors were operable. (Section 1R15b.(2))

The finding was determined to be greater than minor because the containment gaseous and particulate channel radiation monitors were not capable of performing the design bases function for an extended period of time. Additionally, the operability of the reactor coolant system (RCS) leakage detection instrumentation alarming functions was not verified for an extended period of time. The inoperability resulted in potential impact on reactor safety and adversely affected the availability and reliability of the barrier integrity equipment performance attribute of the initiating events cornerstone. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because other methods of reactor coolant system leak detection were available to the licensee and no actual leakage above 1gpm was indicated through the RCS water balance surveillance. The unavailability of the gaseous and particulate channel leak detection functions and the RCS leakage detection instrumentation alarm indications did not contribute to an increase in core damage sequences when evaluated using the significance determination phase 1 worksheets. This finding involved the cross-cutting aspect of problem identification and resolution. The licensee had evaluated the operability of the radiation monitors via the corrective action program and incorrectly determined that the radiation monitors were operable. (Section

1R15b.(2))

Inspection Report# : [2005002\(pdf\)](#)

Mitigating Systems

Significance: SL-IV Mar 31, 2005

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Inadequate 10 CFR 50.59 Documentation

The inspectors identified a non-cited violation for making a change to the facility (implemented as a change to the UFSAR in 1995) that involved an Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ), for which no written evaluation provided an adequate bases for the determination that the change did not require a license amendment pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90. Specifically, the UFSAR change reflected an increased length of time for incore instrumentation room sump instrumentation, as well as gaseous and particulate radiation monitors, to detect a 1 gpm leak. This increased the consequences of an accident or malfunction of equipment important to safety previously evaluated in the safety evaluation report for the reactor coolant system loss of coolant accident (LOCA) leak rate predictions, because the ability to detect a 1 gpm leak within one hour was relied on and credited in the leak-before-break design analysis. The significance of the violation was evaluated under the 10 CFR 50.59 Rule that was in effect at the time of the change, as well as the current 10 CFR 50.59 Rule. The current 10 CFR 50.59 Rule requires, in part that "records must include a written evaluation which provides the bases for the determination that the change does not require a license amendment". This information (i.e., the ability to detect a 1gpm leak within one hour) was relied on in part, by NRC for approval of the leak-before-break analysis. Since, the NRC Enforcement Manual states that violations which existed under the old and new rule should be categorized using the current enforcement guidance, this finding was assessed as a SL IV violation. The significance of this violation was not formally evaluated under the Reactor Oversight Process per the Enforcement Policy, because the Agency views 10 CFR 50.59 issues as potentially impeding the regulatory process (i.e., it precluded NRC review of a change to the facility). The finding was not suitable for evaluation using the SDP. Given that the change to the incore instrumentation room sump instrumentation sensitivity capabilities and the gaseous and particulate radiation monitor sensitivities increased the length of time to detect a 1 gpm leak, and the fact that a diverse means of detecting a 1 gpm leak within one hour existed in accordance with Technical Specification (TS) requirements, the delta core damage frequency for the applicable core damage accident sequences stemming from LOCA initiating events were determined to be of very low safety significance. (Section 1R15b.(1))

Inspection Report# : [2005002\(pdf\)](#)**G****Significance:** Dec 31, 2004

Identified By: Self Disclosing

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Maintain Two ECCS Trains Operable Due to Gas Accumulation In the Charging Pump Suction Piping

A self-revealing non-cited violation was identified for gas intrusion that resulted in a failure to maintain the 1A and 1B centrifugal charging pumps and 1A safety injection pump in an operable condition, in accordance with Technical Specification 3.5.2, Emergency Core Cooling Systems (ECCS). The licensee had several opportunities to evaluate industry events (some having elements identical to this Catawba gas intrusion event) to address the pressurizer as a gas source and evaluate system integration that could lead to inoperability of ECCS equipment. This finding was greater than minor because it affected an objective and attribute of the Reactor Safety Mitigating Systems Cornerstone, in that gas accumulation in the centrifugal charging pump suction piping rendered ECCS systems unavailable and unreliable. Due to the short exposure time and the assumption that the 1A safety injection pump was only affected during high pressure recirculation, the finding was determined to be of very low safety significance. (Section 4OA3.1)

Inspection Report# : [2004006\(pdf\)](#)**G****Significance:** Jun 19, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Promptly Correct YC System Chiller Divider Plate Clamps

The inspectors identified a non-cited violation of 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, Corrective Action, for the failure to perform prompt corrective actions to prevent recurrence of a significant condition adverse to quality on the control room area ventilation chilled water (YC) system 'A' chiller inlet flow divider plate support clamp. This resulted in a test failure of the YC system 'A' chiller.

The finding is greater than minor because it affected the reactor safety mitigating system cornerstone objective of ensuring reliable, available, and capable systems that respond to initiating events. The finding is of very low safety significance because, both trains of YC were not inoperable at the same time and each train is fully capable of performing the mitigating system safety function; therefore, there was not a complete loss of system function.

Inspection Report# : [2004004\(pdf\)](#)**G****Significance:** Jun 19, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Maintain/Control the Thickness of the Ground Barrier Missile Protection Shield Over RN Train 'B' Electrical Conduits

The inspectors identified a non-cited violation for the failure to comply with 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, Design Control, to assure that the minimum tornado missile protection shield thickness of 5.0 feet was maintained or controlled when the ground barrier over the Unit 2, nuclear service water (RN), train 'B' electrical conduits was removed with the remaining ground coverage less than 5 feet.

The finding is more than minor because it affected the reactor safety mitigating system cornerstone objective of ensuring equipment reliability. The finding was determined to be of very low safety significance because of the low frequency of tornados, the relative small amount of electrical conduit that did not have the required ground coverage, the short exposure time, and the low impact on mitigating systems since just one pump in one train of RN was involved.

Inspection Report# : [2004004\(pdf\)](#)

Barrier Integrity

G

Significance: Mar 31, 2005

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Identify Containment Isolation Valve Inoperability During MOV Thrust Testing

The inspectors identified a non-cited violation for the failure to implement Operations Management Procedure (OMP) 1-8, "Authority and Responsibility of On-Shift Operations Personnel," when licensed operators in the work control center and main control room did not identify that testing performed on a TS containment isolation valve rendered it inoperable and as a result, required actions were not reviewed for implementation. The inspectors determined that this violation was greater than minor because it affected an objective and attribute of the Reactor Safety Barrier Integrity cornerstone associated with the reactor containment integrity in that one of two in-series containment isolation valves was rendered inoperable during planned maintenance activities and not identified by operations personnel so the required TS action statement was not reviewed for implementation. The finding was assessed using the SDP for Reactor Inspection Findings for At-Power Situations. The finding was evaluated using the Phase 1 SDP analysis and determined to be of very low safety significance based on the short length of time the containment isolation valve was de-energized in the non-closed position. This finding involved a human performance cross cutting issue when the licensed operators did not adequately fulfill their duties and responsibilities to recognize and understand plant conditions to implement TS requirements properly. (Section 4OA2.2)

Inspection Report# : [2005002\(pdf\)](#)

Emergency Preparedness

Occupational Radiation Safety

Public Radiation Safety

Physical Protection

[Physical Protection](#) information not publicly available.

Miscellaneous

Significance: SL-III Jan 24, 2005

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: VIO Violation

Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Information Involving MOX Amendment Fuel Assemblies and Related Dose Calculations

10 CFR 50.9(a) states, in part, that information provided to the Commission by an applicant for a license or by a licensee shall be complete and accurate in all material respects. Contrary to the above, on February 27, 2003, November 3, 2003, and March 16, 2004, the licensee submitted incomplete and inaccurate information regarding a proposed amendment to the facility operating license, to allow the irradiation of four mixed oxide (MOX) lead test assemblies (LTAs). Specifically:

(1) The proposed license amendment of February 27, 2003, failed to indicate that the reactor core would also include eight next generation fuel LTAs as part of the complete core loading of 193 fuel assemblies. This information was material to the NRC in that, as part of the license amendment review, substantial further inquiry by the NRC was necessary to review the thermal-hydraulic conditions and mechanical design arising from the proposed reactor core composition.

(2) The above submittals included radiation dose evaluations that were not based on the current plant design basis accident radiation doses. This information was material to the NRC, in that as part of the license amendment review, substantial further inquiry by the NRC was necessary to review the radiation doses arising from the proposed reactor core composition.

This is a Severity Level III Violation (Supplement VII) with no civil penalty assessed.

Inspection Report# : [2005006\(pdf\)](#)

Significance: SL-IV Jan 24, 2005

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: NCV NonCited Violation

Failure to Update the FSAR Involving Dose Calculations

A violation of 10 CFR 50.71(e) was identified involving DEC's failure to update the FSAR to reflect correct design basis accident dose calculations. Because of its low safety significance and because the issue was entered into their corrective action program (Problem Investigation Process reports G-04-0334 and C-04-4116), the NRC is treating this Severity Level IV violation as a non-cited violation, consistent with Section VI.A of the NRC Enforcement Policy.

Inspection Report# : [2005006\(pdf\)](#)

Significance: N/A Aug 27, 2004

Identified By: NRC

Item Type: FIN Finding

Catawba 2004 PI&R

The licensee was generally effective in identifying problems at a low threshold and entering them into the corrective action program. The licensee properly prioritized issues and routinely performed adequate evaluations that were technically accurate and of sufficient depth. However, the licensee was slow at times to initiate Problem Investigation Process reports (PIPs) for documenting conditions adverse to quality that met the initiation criteria established in the program procedures. In addition, examples were identified where problems were not accurately and thoroughly described in PIPs; thereby, adversely impacting the licensee's ability to properly code the problems for trending and develop proper corrective actions. This was especially true with respect to human performance deficiencies.

Several examples of recurring problems were noted after corrective actions had been completed. It was also noted that actions taken to correct equipment problems have sometimes been slow; but, licensee management applied increased attention to equipment problems and increasing equipment reliability through the Equipment Reliability Initiative started in early 2004. The licensee's self-assessments and audits were effective in identifying deficiencies in the corrective action program. The inspectors did not identify any reluctance by plant personnel to report safety concerns.

Inspection Report# : [2004009\(pdf\)](#)

Last modified : June 17, 2005