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March 21, 2000

LCV-1435

Docket No. 50-424

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 1-00-001
AUXILIARY FEEDWATER PUMP INOPERABLE FOR
LONGER THAN ALLOWED BY TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.73, Southern Nuclear Operating Company hereby submits a Vogtle Electric Generating Plant licensee event report for a condition that occurred on Unit 1 on February 25, 2000.

Sincerely,

J. B. Beasley, Jr.

JBB/JPC

Enclosure: LER 1-00-001

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Mr. J. T. Gasser
Mr. M. Sheibani
SNC Document Management

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
Mr. Ramin R. Assa, Vogtle Project Manager, NRR
Mr. J. Zeiler, Senior Resident Inspector, VEGP

JE22

FACILITY NAME (1) **Vogle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 1**

DOCKET NUMBER (2) **05000424** PAGE (3) **1 OF 4**

TITLE (4) **AUXILIARY FEEDWATER PUMP INOPERABLE LONGER THAN ALLOWED BY THE TECH. SPECS.**

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
0	2	25	2	000	0	0	3	21		05000
										000
										05000

OPERATING MODE (9)	POWER LEVEL (10)	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11)			
1	100	20.2201(b)	20.2203(a)(1)	20.2203(a)(2)(i)	20.2203(a)(2)(v) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		20.2203(a)(2)(ii)	20.2203(a)(2)(iii)	20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	50.73(a)(2)(i) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		20.2203(a)(2)(iii)	20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	50.36(c)(1)	50.73(a)(2)(ii) <input type="checkbox"/>
		20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	50.36(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)	50.73(a)(2)(iii) <input type="checkbox"/>
					50.73(a)(2)(iv) <input type="checkbox"/>
					50.73(a)(2)(v) <input type="checkbox"/>
					50.73(a)(2)(vi) <input type="checkbox"/>
					50.73(a)(2)(viii) <input type="checkbox"/>
					50.73(a)(2)(ix) <input type="checkbox"/>
					73.71 <input type="checkbox"/>
					OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>
					Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME **Mehdi Sheibani, Nuclear Safety and Compliance** TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code) **706-826-3209**

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)										
CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX	
B	BASC		W290	N						

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE) NO

EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-space typewritten lines) (16)

On February 25, 2000, a monthly turbine driven auxiliary feedwater pump (TDAFWP) operability test was performed. The test determined that the pump differential pressure was below the minimum acceptance criterion of 1662 psid. The TDAFWP speed control was adjusted, and the pump was re-tested satisfactorily and returned to service.

A review of pump test data found that the previous month's testing on January 27, 2000, had also displayed inadequate pump differential pressure; however, no corrective action had been taken at that time. This constituted firm evidence that the pump was inoperable for 29 days until the discovery of this condition on February 25, 2000. Although other auxiliary feedwater pumps were available to perform the system safety function, the unit had operated in a condition prohibited by the Technical Specifications.

The causes of this event were speed controller instrument drift and a cognitive personnel error. The personnel responsible for performing and reviewing the testing of January 27, 2000 did not recognize the unacceptable test results and initiate corrective actions. The responsible personnel have been counseled and routine preventive maintenance has been established for speed controllers.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A)(17)

A. REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT

This report is required per 10 CFR 50.73 (a)(2)(i) because the unit operated in a condition prohibited by the Technical Specifications (TS) when a required action was not taken within the appropriate time.

B. UNIT STATUS AT TIME OF EVENT

At the time of this event, the unit was operating in Mode 1 (power operation) at 100 percent of rated thermal power. Other than that described herein, there was no inoperable equipment that contributed to the occurrence of this event.

C. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

On January 27, 2000, a monthly turbine driven auxiliary feedwater pump (TDAFWP) operability test was performed. A variety of parameters are measured during this testing, including pump differential pressure which testing determined to be 1630 psid. However, the minimum acceptance criterion per the testing procedure is 1662 psid. The balance of plant operator (BOP) who performed the test indicated on the procedure that this acceptance criterion had been met. The unit shift supervisor (USS) who reviewed the testing also approved it as being satisfactory.

On February 25, 2000, at 0935 EST, the monthly TDAFWP operability test was again performed with similar test results. However, personnel recognized that the pump differential pressure acceptance criterion was not met. The TDAFWP speed control was adjusted, and the pump was re-tested satisfactorily and returned to service at 1550 EST.

An investigation was initiated into the cause of the February 25, 2000 failure to meet the pump differential pressure acceptance criterion. A review of test results from several previous months found that the January 27, 2000, testing data had also identified the pump's inadequate discharge pressure. This constituted firm evidence that the pump was inoperable for the 29 days involved and placed the unit in a condition prohibited by the TS during that time.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A)(17)

D. CAUSE OF EVENT

The causes of this event were:

- 1) Speed controller instrument drift. The resistance of one of the speed controller's variable potentiometers had changed since the December 30, 1999 TDAFW operability test.
- 2) Cognitive personnel errors on the part of the BOP who performed the test and the USS who reviewed the testing on January 27, 2000. Inattention to detail and failure to verify an acceptance criterion resulted in a failure to take actions required by the TS. There were no unusual characteristics of the work location that contributed to the occurrence of these errors by the licensee personnel involved.

E. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

Although the TDAFWP pump was degraded, an engineering analysis determined that the pump would have started upon demand and delivered flow adequate to perform its design safety function. Together, the degraded TDAFWP and one motor driven AFW pump would have provided adequate flow to ensure that the system safety function was available had it been needed. Furthermore, no event occurred during this time that required the auxiliary feedwater system to perform its intended safety function. Based on these considerations, there was no adverse effect on plant safety or on the health and safety of the public as a result of this event.

This event does not represent a safety system functional failure.

F. CORRECTIVE ACTION

- 1) Maintenance was performed to adjust a potentiometer's variable resistance and the speed controller was returned to operable status. Further maintenance will be performed on this and other Unit 1 TDAFWP potentiometers by April 1, 2000. Similar maintenance on the Unit 2 TDAFWP potentiometers has already been completed. In addition, preventive maintenance will continue to be performed on the potentiometers on a periodic basis.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

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Vogtle Electric Generating Plant - Unit 1	0 5 0 0 0 4 2 4	2 0 0 0	- 0 0 1	- 0 0	4	OF 4

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A)(17)

- 2) The BOP and the USS were counseled on the importance of attention to detail, focusing on the task at hand, and the need to verify that acceptance criteria have been met prior to signing a completed surveillance. The operating crews have been briefed on this event.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1) Failed Components:
Speed Controller manufactured by Woodward Governor Company
Model #9903-087
- 2) Previous Similar Event:
LER 50-425/1998-006, dated July 15, 1998. This LER failed to include the acceptance criterion in the appropriate section of the test procedure.
- 3) Energy Industry Identification System Code:
Auxiliary Feedwater System - BA