

Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Decatur, Alabama 35609-2000

April 25, 2012

10 CFR 50.73

ATTN: Document Control Desk U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

> Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 3 Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-33 and DPR-68 NRC Docket Nos. 50-259, and 50-296

Subject:

Licensee Event Report 50-259/2011-009-02

Reference:

- 1. Letter from TVA to NRC, "Licensee Event Report 50-259/2011-009-00," dated December 5, 2011
- 2. Letter from TVA to NRC, "Licensee Event Report 50-259/2011-009-01," dated January 31, 2012

On December 5, 2011, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted Revision 0 to Licensee Event Report (LER) 50-259/2011-009. At that time, TVA was completing the causal analysis of the as-found undervoltage trip for the Reactor Protection System (RPS). The causal analysis indicated that the RPS 1A1 relay did not meet acceptance criteria during several surveillances. After completing the causal analysis, TVA submitted Revision 1 to LER 50-259/2011-009 on January 31, 2012. TVA has since discovered that RPS 3C1 relay did not meet its acceptance criteria during previous surveillances for the same reason. These findings are detailed in the enclosed LER revision.

TVA is submitting this supplemental LER in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B), any operation or condition which was prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications.

There are no new regulatory commitments contained in this letter. Should you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact J. E. Emens, Jr., Nuclear Site Licensing Manager, at (256) 729-2636.

Respectfully.

K. J. Polson Vice President

> IE22 NRC

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Enclosure:

Licensee Event Report 259/2011-009-02 - As-Found Undervoltage Trip

for the Reactor Protection System 1A1 Relay that Did Not Meet Acceptance Criteria During Several Surveillances

cc (w/ Enclosure):

NRC Regional Administrator - Region II

NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

ENCLOSURE

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 3

Licensee Event Report 259/2011-009-02

As-Found Undervoltage Trip for the Reactor Protection System 1A1 Relay that Did Not Meet Acceptance Criteria During Several Surveillances

See Enclosed

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The corrective action to prevent recurrence is to revise the Surveillance Test Program Procedure.

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NARRATIVE

I. PLANT CONDITION(S)

At the time of discovery of Reactor Protection System (RPS) [JC] 1A1 relay [RLY] inoperability, Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Unit 1 was at approximately 100 percent rated thermal power and unaffected by the event.

At the time of discovery of RPS 3C1 relay inoperability, BFN Unit 3 was at approximately 100 percent rated thermal power and unaffected by the event.

II. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

A. Event

Event 1: BFN Unit 1 RPS 1A1 Relay

On October 6, 2011, while performing an evaluation for past operability on the RPS 1A1 relay undervoltage trips, BFN determined that the as-found undervoltage trip for the RPS 1A1 relay was less than the required Acceptance Criteria (AC) during several Technical Specification (TS) Surveillances. The past operability evaluation indicates, based on a review of equipment history and the cause of the failure, that the RPS 1A1 relay was considered unreliable from April 30, 2007, to October 5, 2011. As a result, for the purposes of this report, the RPS 1A1 relay is treated as being inoperable from April 30, 2007, to October 5, 2011. BFN Unit 1 TS Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.3.8.2 requires that two RPS electric power monitoring assemblies be operable in Modes 1, 2, and 3; and in Modes 4 and 5 with any control rod withdrawn from a core cell containing one or more fuel assemblies for each inservice RPS Motor Generator (MG) [MG] set or alternate power supply [JX]. If one or both inservice power supplies with one electric power monitoring assembly were inoperable, the associated inservice power supply(s) are required to be removed from service in 72 hours. If this TS 3.3.8.2 Required Action is not met within 72 hours, the unit is required to be in Mode 3 within 12 hours and in Mode 4 within 36 hours. Also, LCO 3.0.4 prohibits Mode changes when an LCO is not met except under certain conditions that were not applicable to this event.

Since the as-found undervoltage trip for the RPS 1A1 relay was less than the required AC during several TS surveillances, it is probable that BFN Unit 1 operated with an inoperable RPS electrical power monitoring assembly longer than allowed by the TS. In addition, due to the RPS 1A1 relay condition, TS LCO 3.0.4 was not met for each applicable Mode change and for any control rod withdrawn from a core cell containing one or more fuel assemblies in Modes 4 or 5 that occurred since April 2007.

Event 2: BFN Unit 3 RPS 3C1 Relay

While performing an evaluation for past operability on the RPS 3C1 relay undervoltage trips, BFN personnel determined that the as-found undervoltage trip for the RPS 3C1 relay was less than the required acceptance criteria during several TS Surveillances leading to the initiation of Service Request (SR) 485662 on January 6, 2012. The past operability evaluation indicated, based on a review of equipment history and the cause of the failure, that the RPS 3C1 relay was

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considered unreliable from June 9, 2006, to February 2, 2012, when the relay was replaced. Therefore, RPS 3C1 relay is treated as being operable beginning with its installation on August 7, 1990, until June 9, 2006, and inoperable from June 9, 2006, to February 2, 2012. BFN Unit 3 TS LCO 3.3.8.2 requires that two RPS electric power monitoring assemblies be operable in Modes 1, 2, and 3; and in Modes 4 and 5 with any control rod withdrawn from a core cell containing one or more fuel assemblies for each inservice RPS MG set or alternate power supply. If one or both inservice power supplies with one electric power monitoring assembly were inoperable, the associated inservice power supply(s) are required to be removed from service in 72 hours. If this TS 3.3.8.2 Required Action is not met within 72 hours, the unit is required to be in Mode 3 within 12 hours and in Mode 4 within 36 hours. Also, LCO 3.0.4 prohibits Mode changes when an LCO is not met except under certain conditions that were not applicable to this event.

Since the as-found undervoltage trip for the RPS 3C1 relay was less than the required AC during several TS surveillances, it is probable that BFN Unit 3 operated with an inoperable RPS electrical power monitoring assembly longer than allowed by the TS. In addition, due to the RPS 3C1 relay condition, TS LCO 3.0.4 was not met for each applicable Mode change and for any control rod withdrawn from a core cell containing one or more fuel assemblies in Modes 4 or 5 that occurred since June 2006.

B. Inoperable Structures, Components, or Systems that Contributed to the Event

There were no inoperable structures, components, or systems that contributed to this event.

C. <u>Dates and Approximate Times of Major Occurrences</u>

Event 1: BFN Unit 1 RPS 1A1 Relay

October 3, 2007	As-found undervoltage trip for the RPS 1A1 relay was less than the required AC during the performance of surveillance 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A), RPS Circuit Protector Calibration/Functional Test for 1A1 and 1A2.
September 3, 2008	As-found undervoltage trip for the RPS 1A1 relay was less than the required AC during the performance of 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A).

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NARRATIVE	-					
August 5, 2009	1A1 rela	y was les g the pe	oltage trip fo ss than the i rformance o).	required		
September 3, 2010	1A1 rela	y was les g the pe	oltage trip fo ss than the i rformance o).	required		3
February 1, 2011	1A1 rela	y was les ig the pe	oltage trip foss than the officers than the officers of the of	required		
August 7, 2011	1A1 rela	y was les ig the pe	oltage trip fo ss than the rformance o).	required		
October 5, 2011	The RPS	S 1A1 rel	ay was repl	aced.		
Event 2: BFN Unit 3 RPS 3C	1 <u>Relay</u>					
November 15, 2006	3C1 rela AC durin surveilla	y was le: ig the pe nce 3-SF rotector	oltage trip for ss than the rformance of R-3.3.8.2.1(Calibration/ 3C2.	required of C), RPS		
March 31, 2008	3C1 rela	y was le	oltage trip for ss than the rformance of	required		
September 18, 2008	3C1 rela	y was le	oltage trip for ss than the rformance of the control of the contro	required		
M arch 4, 2009	3C1 rela AC durir	ıy was le	oltage trip fo ss than the rformance o :).	required		

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NARRATIVE		<u> </u>				
February 22, 2010	3C1 rela	y was les	oltage trip for ss than the re rformance of).	equired		
September 14, 2011	3C1 rela	y was les	oltage trip for ss than the re rformance of	equired		

D. Other Systems or Secondary Functions Affected

There were no other systems or secondary functions affected.

E. Method of Discovery

February 2, 2012

Event 1 was discovered during the evaluation for past operability of the RPS 1A1 relay undervoltage trips identified by 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A).

3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C).

The RPS 3C1 relay was replaced.

Event 2 was discovered during review of 3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C) TS surveillance performance.

F. Operator Actions

There were no operator actions.

G. Safety System Responses

There were no safety system responses.

III. CAUSE OF THE EVENT

A. Immediate Cause

The immediate cause of these events was the as-found undervoltage trip for the RPS relays being less than the required AC during the performance of several TS surveillances.

B. Root Cause

The root cause of these events was determined to be the surveillance test program does not provide specific instructions for past operability reviews when out of TS conditions are corrected during surveillances.

C. Contributing Factors

The contributing factor for these events was determined to be the use of the maintenance management system which failed to communicate critical information. The governing procedure for the maintenance management system does not provide guidance on how to close a Work Order (WO) properly in the electronic work management program. The maintenance management system procedure will be revised to provide the necessary guidance.

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IV. ANALYSIS OF THE EVENT

TVA is submitting this report in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B), any operation or condition which was prohibited by the plant's TS.

The RPS electric power monitoring system is provided to isolate the RPS bus from the MG set or an alternate power supply in the event of overvoltage, undervoltage, or underfrequency. This system protects the loads connected to the RPS bus against unacceptable voltage and frequency conditions and forms an important part of the primary success path of the essential safety circuits.

These events involve the as-found undervoltage trip of the two referenced RPS relays. The required TS AC for undervoltage is ≥ 108.5 volts. In the event of an undervoltage condition for an extended period of time, the scram solenoids can chatter and potentially lose their pneumatic control capacity, resulting in a loss of a primary scram action.

Event 1: BFN Unit 1 1A1 RPS Relay

The past performances of 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A) from April 2007 to August 2011 were evaluated as seen in the RPS 1A1 Relay Calibration Data table below.

RPS 1A1 Relay Calibration Data

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Date	RPS 1A1 Relay As-found	Problem Evaluation Report (PER)
04/30/2007	109.7	N/A
10/03/2007	106.3 ⁽¹⁾	131365
03/18/2008	109.7	N/A
09/03/2008	107.79 ⁽¹⁾	151812
03/19/2009	110.1	N/A
08/05/2009	107.6 ⁽¹⁾	178286
02/04/2010	110.1	N/A
09/03/2010	107.6 ⁽¹⁾	248513
02/01/2011	107.2 ⁽¹⁾	None
08/07/2011	106.4 ⁽¹⁾	413140

⁽¹⁾ These values indicate as-found undervoltage below required AC.

There were six different performances of 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A) that were in violation of the required AC. In each case, the as-found condition was documented in the WO to perform 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A), which demonstrates proper use of the procedure and understanding of the expectations regarding out of tolerance conditions. In all cases except for the February 1, 2011 performance of 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A), a PER was

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generated and the control room was notified. The missed PER for the February 1, 2011 performance of 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A) has been documented by PER 443793.

During the performance of 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A), the RPS 1A1 relay was calibrated within AC on each occasion. When making the operability determination, Operations personnel were not aware of past surveillance performance results that were below the AC prior to the August 7, 2011 performance of 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A). There is no evidence that this type of performance data is, or has been, trended for past performances to determine the impact on operability between surveillances.

For this event, the past inoperability began on April 30, 2007, when the RPS 1A1 relay as-found undervoltage trip reading was acceptable, and ended on October 5, 2011, when the RPS 1A1 relay was replaced. This conclusion was based on a review of the equipment history and the cause of the failure documented in the past operability evaluation.

Event 2: BFN Unit 3 3C1 RPS Relay

The past performances of 3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C) from June 2006 to February 2012 were also evaluated as seen in the RPS 3C1 Relay Calibration Data table below.

RPS 3C1 Relay Calibration Data

Date	RPS 3C1 Relay As-found	Problem Evaluation Report (PER)
06/09/2006	108.5	N/A
11/15/2006	107 ⁽¹⁾	114861
05/06/2007	111.3	N/A
10/18/2007	108.7	N/A
03/31/2008	107.1(1)	141235
09/18/2008	107.5 ⁽¹⁾	152847
03/04/2009	107.95 ⁽¹⁾	164999
08/19/2009	109.66	N/A
02/22/2010	108.26(1)	217991
08/17/2010	110.2	N/A
03/05/2011	N/A	491208
09/14/2011	106.1(1)	486780
02/02/2012	107.2 ⁽¹⁾	Replaced after surveillance

⁽¹⁾ These values indicate as-found undervoltage below required AC.

There were seven different performances of 3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C) that were in violation of the required AC. In each case, the as-found condition was documented in the WO to perform 3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C) and a PER was generated. Data for March 5, 2011 is missing. Documentation for this issue can be found in PER 491208.

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During the performance of 3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C), the RPS 3C1 relay was calibrated within AC on each occasion. When making the operability determination, Operations personnel were not aware of past surveillance performance results that were below the AC prior to the 3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C) performance review.

For this event, the past inoperability began on June 9, 2006, when the RPS 3C1 relay as-found undervoltage trip reading was acceptable, and ended on February 2, 2012, when the RPS 3C1 relay was replaced. This conclusion was based on a review of the equipment history and the cause of the failure documented in the past operability evaluation.

Extent of Condition

The extent of condition includes the RPS relay calibration surveillances on BFN Units 1, 2 and 3. Also, the extent of condition includes all surveillances that have failed an AC step that did not result in a component failure. The extent of condition is being addressed by reviewing the 2010 LCO Actions and the 2011 LCO Actions that have been entered for out of tolerance and out of TS compliance conditions that occurred during the performance of surveillances and determine if any past operability issues were missed. If there are any issues discovered, the issues will be documented in the corrective action program.

Extent of Cause

The extent of cause includes all Preventive Maintenance (PM) WOs and surveillances. The extent of cause is being addressed by revising NPG-SPP-06.2, Preventive Maintenance, to require, if an out of tolerance condition exists, the past three (3) performances of the surveillance are to be reviewed to determine if an equipment trend exists. If a trend is discovered, then a new SR will be required to be initiated in the corrective action program identifying the trend.

V. ASSESSMENT OF SAFETY CONSEQUENCES

The RPS provides timely protection against the onset and consequences of conditions that threaten the integrity of the fuel barrier and the nuclear system process barrier. The system is designed such that no single failure can prevent a reactor scram. The RPS includes the MG power supplies with associated control and indicating equipment, sensors, relays, bypass circuitry, and switches that supply a signal to the control rod drive system to cause rapid insertion of the control rods to shut down the reactor. Based on parameters that deviate from normal, the RPS is designed to automatically shutdown the reactor. With one RPS electric power monitoring assembly (RPS 1A1 or 3C1 relay) for an inservice RPS power supply that is inoperable, the remaining operable RPS electric power monitoring assembly will still provide protection to the RPS bus powered components under degraded voltage or frequency conditions.

Therefore, TVA concluded that there was no significant reduction to the health and safety of the public for either of these events.

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VI. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS - The corrective actions are being managed by TVA's corrective action program.

A. Immediate Corrective Actions

Standing order 174 was issued to establish Operations department expectations when as-found data is found outside of acceptable regulatory guidelines.

B. Corrective Actions

The RPS 1A1 relay and 3C1 relay were replaced.

C. Corrective Actions to Prevent Recurrence

Revise procedure NPG-SPP-06.9.2, Surveillance Test Program, to:

- Add flowchart for generating corrective actions when out of tolerance conditions are discovered for PM WOs.
- Require, if an out of tolerance condition exists, the past three (3) performances
 of the surveillance to be reviewed to determine if an equipment trend exists. If
 a trend is discovered, then a new SR will be required to be initiated identifying
 the trend.
- Instruct Operations to request a past operability review in the event a surveillance performance is found to be not in compliance with its TS required value.

As a result of this procedure change, a change management plan will be required to be developed and implemented in accordance with TVA procedural requirements. This change management plan will identify any training requirements associated with the procedure change.

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Failed Components

The failed components were the RPS 1A1 relay (original equipment, manufacturer indeterminate) and RPS 3C1 relay (installed August 7, 1990, manufacturer indeterminate).

B. Previous Similar Events

Previous similar events occurred during the earlier performances of 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A) and 3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C). PERs 131365, 151812, 178286, and 248513 relate to 1-SR-3.3.8.2.1(A). PERs 114861, 141235, 164999, 21799, and 537704 relate to 3-SR-3.3.8.2.1(C).

C. Additional Information

The corrective action documents for this report are PERs 413140, 442914, and 486780.

NRC FORM 366A U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (10-2010) LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) CONTINUATION SHEET FACILITY NAME (1) DOCKET (2) LER NUMBER (6) PAGE (3) SEQUENTIAL NUMBER YEAR REVISION NUMBER Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 05000259 2011 -- 009 10 of 10 -- 02 NARRATIVE D. **Safety System Functional Failure Consideration** These events were not a safety system functional failure in accordance with NEI 99-02. E. **Scram With Complications Consideration**

VIII. COMMITMENTS

There are no commitments.

These events did not include a reactor scram.