

**Exelon Generation Company, LLC** 

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Timothy C. Peter Plant Manager – JAF

JAFP-17-0051 June 5, 2017

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attn: Document Control Desk Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject:

LER: 2017-003, Inadvertent Isolation of the High Pressure Coolant Injection System James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant Docket No. 50-333 License No. DPR-59

Dear Sir or Madam:

This report is submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(v)(D), as a condition that could have prevented fulfillment of a safety function.

There are no new regulatory commitments contained in this report.

Questions concerning this report may be addressed to Mr. William Drews, Regulatory Assurance Manager, at (315) 349-6562.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Peter Plant Manager

TCP/WD/ds

Enclosure:

LER: 2017-003, Inadvertent Isolation of the High Pressure Coolant Injection System

cc: USNRC, Region I Administrator USNRC, Project Manager USNRC, Resident Inspector INPO Records Center (ICES)

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NARRATIVE				-				

## Background

The High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) System [EIIS Identifier: BJ] is part of the Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS); HPCI provides and maintains an adequate coolant inventory inside the Reactor Pressure Vessel [RPV] to prevent damage to the reactor core under postulated accident scenarios. The system is comprised of various components which include a turbine, pumps, valves, piping, and instrumentation. The HPCI System may be initiated by automatic or manual means; although, manual initiation requires manipulation of individual pump and valve control switches. Automatic initiation occurs for conditions of Reactor Vessel Water Level – "Low Low" or Drywell Pressure – "High." Automatic isolation occurs upon receipt of the following signals: high steam flow, high temperature in the HPCI equipment area, low steam supply pressure, high turbine exhaust pressure, and high suppression pool area temperature.

HPCI area temperatures are provided to detect a leak from the associated system steam piping. The isolation occurs when a leak has occurred and is diverse to the high flow instrumentation. If the leak is allowed to continue without isolation, offsite dose limits may be reached. The HPCI area isolation function is not assumed in any UFSAR transient or accident analysis since bounding analyses are performed for large breaks such as recirculation or main steam line breaks. Area Temperature-High signals are initiated from resistance temperature detectors (RTDs) that are appropriately located to protect the system that is being monitored. Two instruments monitor each area for a total of 16 channels for HPCI. All channels for each HPCI Area Temperature - High Function are available and are required to be operable to ensure that no single instrument failure can preclude the isolation function. The Allowable Values are set high enough above normal operating levels to avoid spurious operation but low enough to provide timely detection of a steam leak.

# **Event Description**

On April 4, 2017, I&C technicians were performing ISP-175B1, Reactor and Containment Cooling Instrument Functional Test / Calibration, when the HPCI System was inadvertently isolated. ISP-175B1, Step 9.4.5 directs the connection of a DC voltage source on 02-3MTU-252B (Reactor Pressure Interlock CSP/RHR/RHR SDC Master Trip Unit). While performing the Core Spray test, the technician at the trip unit mistakenly connected the energized voltage source to the adjacent trip unit, 23MTU-217B (HPCI Area Temp Hi Master Trip Unit), after the lead had become disconnected. Flagging was used at the start of the test but when the lead became disconnected it removed the installed flagging. The worker identified the incorrect component and installed the test lead into the HPCI trip unit. The error was immediately identified by the unexpected receipt of annunciators. The test was stopped, the technician at the 09-96 panel was removed from the field and a plan was developed and executed to abort the test and restore conditions to normal for HPCI.

The following is a timeline of pertinent events on April 4, 2017:

- 0730 Commencement of ISP-175B1, Reactor and Containment Cooling Instrument Functional Test/Calibration
- 0735 HPCI inoperable due to inadvertent isolation; Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) [BN] verified operable and protected per procedure
- 1038 Isolation verification and recovery complete; Hi-Hi Temperature Isolation restored to normal
- 1132 Completed NRC Notification ENS 52664, and informed resident
- 1238 HPCI restored to operable status

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## Cause

The active error and event were the result of the I&C technician mistakenly connecting the energized voltage source to an adjacent trip unit, 23MTU-217B (HPCI Area Temp Hi Master Trip Unit). The error was immediately identified by the unexpected receipt of control room annunciators which indicated the HPCI system had isolated. The Senior I&C technician in the Control Room subsequently questioned the I&C technician at Panel 09-96 in the Relay Room as to what action had just been performed, and directed all work to be stopped immediately.

The apparent cause was identified as failure to implement the required human performance tools. The I&C technician failed to stop and reverify the correct component prior to re-landing the test lead and proceeding with the task after conditions had changed.

## Similar Events

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 3: LER 2016-006-00, High Pressure Coolant Injection System Found to be Inoperable During Testing

Limerick Generating Station, Unit 2: LER 2015-005-00, Condition that Could Have Prevented Fulfillment of the High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) System Safety Function

# **Corrective Actions**

## **Completed Actions**

- All work immediately stopped; RCIC verified operable, and protected per procedure
- HPCI operability restored per OP-15, High Pressure Coolant Injection
- NRC notified via ENS 52664
- I&C technician qualifications removed
- Increased observations, peer checks, and validation of I&C activities

#### Safety Significance Nuclear Safety

## Actual Consequences

There were no actual nuclear safety consequences during this period as a result of this event.

## Potential Consequences

This event resulted in the inoperability of the single train HPCI system for approximately five (5) hours. The HPCI System is provided to ensure that the reactor is adequately cooled to limit fuel clad temperature in the event of a small break in the Reactor Coolant System piping with a loss-of-coolant which does not result in rapid depressurization of the reactor vessel. The HPCI System permits the plant to be shut down while maintaining sufficient reactor vessel water inventory until the reactor vessel pressure is below the pressure at which either the Low Pressure Coolant Injection (LPCI) [BO] or Core Spray [BM] System can maintain core cooling.

Several alternate methods were available to Operations personnel in the event of an emergency to provide core cooling, and mitigation of the consequences of an accident. In the event of HPCI inoperability during a design basis accident, adequate core cooling is ensured by the operability of the other ECCS injection/spray subsystems in conjunction with the Automatic Depressurization System (ADS). The JAF Operations Log was reviewed to determine if the ADS or the low pressure ECCS were inoperable during the period of the HPCI

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system inoperability. The ADS, Core Spray and LPCI were confirmed to be operable during the period of HPCI inoperability.

In addition, the approximate five (5) hours of HPCI inoperability is well below the TS LCO 3.5.1.C completion time of fourteen (14) days. Based on the above, during the period that the HPCI system was inoperable, sufficient systems were available to provide the required safety functions to protect the health and safety of the public. Therefore, no significant reduction in the health and safety of the public or plant personnel is associated with this event.

## **Radiological Safety**

There was no radiological safety impact associated with this event.

## Industrial Safety

There was no industrial safety impact associated with this event.

### References

- Issue Report No. 03993791, Connection of Test Equipment to Incorrect Component
- JAF Technical Specifications