

Extending the Qualified Life of Foxboro Pressure Transmitters at Ft. Calhoun

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Abstract

OPPD is implementing an Equipment Service Life Program as one element of re-start efforts for Fort Calhoun Station. The presentation will address actions for one equipment of interest to many EQ Engineers: Foxboro N-E10 series pressure transmitters. Original instructions from Foxboro state a 20-year limit on qualified life even though the thermal aging program justifies much longer qualified life for transmitters subject to lower, more moderate normal service temperature. This type of vendor restriction draws greater attention following issuance of NRC Information Notice 2012-06, Ineffective Use of Vendor Technical Recommendations. The presentation will address steps that OPPD took to justify deviation from the vendor's 20-year limit. Steps included OPEX review, instrument drift evaluation, and evaluation of aging mechanisms – including investigative testing of two transmitters removed from FCS after 30 years of service. Testing included accelerated aging (thermal and cyclic) followed by calibration checks and inspections to detect age-related degradation.