

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-I-10-005

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

Facility

PPL Susquehanna, LLC
Susquehanna, Unit 1
Berwick, PA
Docket: 50-387

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: ALERT DECLARED DUE TO HIGH REFRIGERANT LEVELS IN THE UNIT 1 REACTOR BUILDING

On August 10, 2010 at 09:22 a.m., PPL Susquehanna, LLC, declared an Alert at Susquehanna Unit 1 for high refrigerant levels (FREON) in the Unit 1 reactor building, a vital area. The refrigerant was leaking from the 1A reactor building chiller. The licensee is still investigating the cause of the leak. The high levels of refrigerant resulted in the potential for an oxygen-deficient atmosphere and had the potential to impact access to vital areas of the facility. Once that condition was detected, the plant workers in the reactor building were evacuated as a precaution to ensure personnel safety. No injuries were reported. The 1B reactor building chiller is operating normally to provide cooling while the 1A reactor building chiller is out-of-service.

There are no radiological off-site impacts as a result of the event. Susquehanna Unit 1 remains at rated power. Unit 2 was not affected and continues to operate at rated power. Safety systems in the reactor building are not affected by the leak.

PPL Susquehanna, LLC, will exit the Alert following termination of or mitigation of the leak, restoration of normal atmospheric conditions in, and access to the reactor building.

The NRC Resident Inspectors were on-site and responded to the main control room and emergency response facilities. The agency entered the Monitoring Mode of incident response to follow the licensee's actions and evaluate plant safety performance. NRC Region I, in King of Prussia, PA, staffed its Incident Response Center and contacted the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Region I Public Affairs Office issued a press release and has responded to media inquiries.

The information presented herein has been discussed with PPL Susquehanna, LLC, and is current as of August 10 at 12:00 p.m.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only, and no further preliminary notification update by the staff is anticipated.

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Licensee: PPL Susquehanna, LLC

SUNSI Review Complete: CGC (Reviewer's Initials)

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