

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

July 2, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-12-007

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

Point Beach, Unit 2
NextEra Energy Point Beach
Two Rivers, WI
Docket: 50-301
License: DPR-27

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH UNIT 2 MANUAL REACTOR TRIP AND UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION:

On Wednesday, June 27, 2012, at 8:46 p.m. (CDT), reactor operators manually tripped Unit 2 because of control room indications that the power produced by the main turbine was decreasing and the turbine would soon be tripping automatically. The turbine trip would result in an automatic reactor trip. Prior to the event, Unit 2 had been operating at 100 percent power.

Following the reactor trip, safety systems functioned as designed and the reactor was safely shut down. The NRC Senior Resident Inspector responded to the site and reviewed the response of plant personnel and equipment. The licensee's subsequent troubleshooting activities identified a failed electronic card in the turbine overspeed monitoring circuit as the cause of the turbine unexpectedly losing power. The circuit monitors turbine conditions.

The plant was shut down for more than 72 hours because, in addition to the turbine issue, the licensee needed to repair a pinhole leak on the steam generator blowdown system. That repair was completed on Friday, June 29. An NRC inspector was onsite Friday and Saturday monitoring licensee repair activities and restart preparations.

The licensee plans to restart Unit 2 late Monday, July 2, or Tuesday, July 3.

The State of Wisconsin has been informed.

This information has been reviewed with licensee management and is current as of July 2, 2012, at 12:30 p.m. (CDT).

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12184A286

CONTACTS: John Jandovitz
(920) 755-2309

John.Jandovitz@nrc.gov

Michael Kunowski
(630) 829-9618

Michael.Kunowski@nrc.gov