

August 2, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-020

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 IV, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

Facility

Columbia Generating Station
Energy Northwest
Richland, WA 99352-0069
Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC REACTOR SCRAM WITH TWO CONTROL RODS INDICATING NOT FULLY INSERTED

DESCRIPTION: On July 30, 2004, at 9:24 a.m. PDT, with all emergency core cooling systems available, an automatic reactor scram from 100 percent power occurred at the Columbia Generating Station. An ALERT was declared at 10 a.m. PDT based on the lack of indication of full insertion for two control rods and a determination that a reactor protection setpoint (reactor pressure) had been exceeded.

The operators initiated a manual scram and initiated alternate rod insertion for the two control rods. All rods subsequently indicated full insertion within 5 minutes of the reactor scram. During review of the reactor parameters, following the reactor scram, the operators identified that the reactor scram apparently resulted from a valid reactor protection system actuation on high pressure. No relief valve setpoints were challenged and the condenser remained available for decay heat removal. The feedwater system remained available and no emergency core cooling systems were required. As required by procedure, the operators inhibited the automatic depressurization system and the high pressure core spray system when it was identified that two control rods were not fully inserted. Following the indicated insertion of all control rods, the automatic depressurization system and high pressure core spray systems were returned to their normal alignment. The balance of plant systems for decay heat removal and reactor vessel level control were available.

The unit is currently in Mode 3 with all offsite power available. Energy Northwest is reviewing the cause for the reactor SCRAM and for the two control rods not indicating fully inserted.

The licensee activated the Technical Support Center, Emergency Operations Facility, Operations Support Center, and the Joint Information Facility. Energy Northwest subsequently exited the ALERT at 11:57 a.m. PDT based on the reactor being shut down and all emergency core cooling systems being operable.

Region IV received notification of the reactor scram at 9:30 a.m. PDT and of the Alert classification at 10:05 a.m. PDT from the resident inspector .

NRC entered the monitoring mode at 10:27 a.m. PDT following Region IV consultation with NSIR and NRR. The monitoring mode was exited at 12:30 p.m. PDT.

The state of Washington has been informed.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 6:05 p.m. PDT on July 30, 2004.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

Region IV has informed the OEDO, NRR, SLO, and PAO.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML042150044

CONTACT: William B. Jones, 817-860-8147, WBJ@nrc.gov