

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-04-08C

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facilities**Licensee Emergency Classification**

Florida Power and Light St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2 Jensen Beach, Florida Dockets/Licenses: 05000335, DPR-67, 05000389 NPF-16	X	Notification of Unusual Event Alert Site Area Emergency General Emergency Not Applicable
Progress Energy - Florida Power Corporation Crystal River Unit 3 Crystal River, Florida Docket/License: 05000302, DPR-72		

Subject: Tropical Storm Frances

The Region II office entered the Monitoring Mode and activated its Incident Response Center (IRC) on September 3, 2004, in preparation for Hurricane Frances' impact on Region II nuclear plants. Region II staff members were also dispatched to the Florida Power and Light Company Emergency Operations Facility in Miami, FL, and the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee, FL. The following is a brief synopsis of the events that transpired from September 3 to cessation of the Monitoring Mode and deactivation of the IRC in Region II on September 7.

St. Lucie

The licensee issued a Notice of Unusual Event (NOUE) at 10:43 a.m.(EDT) on September 2 due to the declaration of a Hurricane Warning for the east coast of Florida. The site made preparations for the impending severe weather by reducing plant power and eventually shutting down both reactor plants on September 4. All necessary shutdown safety systems responded as required and were utilized in the shutdown of the reactor plants. The impact of Hurricane Frances was most severe at the site in the early morning of September 5, as the eye of Hurricane Frances passed over the site and subjected the plant to high winds exceeding 80 mph and heavy rain. The site did not suffer a loss of offsite power (LOOP), but did lose dedicated communications with the IRC. Alternative methods of communicating were established and maintained throughout the remainder of the hurricane. The licensee exited the NOUE on September 5 at 5:20 p.m. An evaluation, after the hurricane passed revealed that the site had suffered some structural damage to warehouses and outbuildings and the city water supply had been isolated to the plant. On September 6, the licensee observed an increase in Unit 2 unidentified reactor coolant system (RCS) leakage and quantified the leakage rate at 2.5 gpm. The licensee has since determined that 1.75 gpm of the leakage is associated with the containment spray system and RCP seals. The licensee continues to investigate the source of the remaining 0.75 gpm leak. The resident inspectors maintained coverage throughout the hurricane and continue to monitor licensee corrective actions. Region II has coordinated with FEMA to assess the offsite infrastructure damage.

Crystal River

The licensee issued a Notice of Unusual Event (NOUE) at 5:10 p.m.(EDT) on September 5 due to the declaration of a Hurricane Warning for the west coast of Florida. Hurricane Frances was downgraded to a Tropical Storm and the sustained winds experienced on the site were approximately 35-40 mph. A reactor trip occurred on September 6 due to a partial Loss of Offsite Power (LOOP) and all necessary safe shutdown systems operated as expected. An emergency diesel generator started to supply electrical power to the "B" train vital bus. On September 7 offsite power was restored to the affected bus and the plant electrical alignment was restored to its normal configuration. Communications with the site have been adequate throughout the storm. The resident inspectors maintained coverage throughout the storm and continue to monitor the licensee's recovery from the plant trip. The licensee exited the NOUE on September 7 at 10:17 a.m. Region II has coordinated with FEMA to assess the offsite infrastructure damage.

This information presented herein has been discussed with the licensees and the State of Florida, and is current as of 1:00 p.m., September 7, 2004.

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