

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-04-013

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:

PSEG Nuclear LLC
Hope Creek
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

Docket No.: 050-00354
License No.: NPF-57
Event No.: 41109

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN OF GREATER THAN 72 HOURS - STEAM LEAK DUE TO A RUPTURE OF THE HOPE CREEK "A" MOISTURE SEPARATOR (MS) DRAIN LINE TO THE CONDENSER

On October 10, 2004, at approximately 6:00 p.m., operators lowered reactor power in response to an offgas flow increase and a turbine building ventilation exhaust radiation monitor alarm due to a reported steam leak in the turbine building. At 6:14 p.m. because offgas flow continued to increase and steam was noted in other areas of the turbine building, operators initiated a manual reactor scram to isolate the steam leak, and began a cool down and depressurization to stabilize plant conditions. At 6:22 p.m., in anticipation of a loss of normal heat sink due to slowly degrading main condenser vacuum, operators placed the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) and high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) systems in operation for reactor level and pressure control. At 6:28 p.m. operators closed all of the main steam isolation valves (MSIVs) prior to their automatic closure on low condenser vacuum. During the cooldown, reactor water level cycled high and low repeatedly in response to various plant conditions including manual initiation of RCIC and HPCI, manual closure of MSIVs, and manually opening safety relief valves for pressure control. The causes of the various level changes that occurred will be independently investigated. The cooldown and depressurization continued and operators stabilized the plant in Hot Shutdown at 10:11 p.m. on October 10. The plant was placed in cold shutdown at 5:09 a.m., on October 12, 2004.

The cause of the steam leak was a rupture of an 8-inch "A" MS drain line to the main condenser. This rupture also caused a decrease in condenser vacuum which complicated post trip reactor water level and pressure control. There were no injuries associated with this event. There was a minor radiation release from the plant that was below federally approved operating limits. The release was monitored by the turbine building exhaust and south plant ventilation stack radiation monitors.

The specific cause of the pipe failure is being investigated. Other complications and technical specification issues noted during the event will be independently investigated during an NRC followup inspection. The senior resident inspector and a regional inspector responded to the event and observed activities in the control room. PSEG made initial notifications to the NRC, the resident inspectors and local township officials. The facts of this PN were verified with PSEG senior

operations management.

The Region 1 Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries. The States of New Jersey and Delaware have been informed.

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