

February 25, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-05-004

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

Clinton Power Station
Clinton, IL 61727-9313
Docket: 50-461
License: NPF-62

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS TO REPAIR DAMAGED
FEEDWATER EXTRACTION STEAM LINE

DESCRIPTION:

On February 17, 2005, Clinton Power Station experienced an automatic isolation of the 4B low pressure feedwater heater. The isolation occurred in response to high water level conditions in the feedwater heater. On February 19, 2005, as part of their troubleshooting efforts, the licensee attempted to un-isolate the 4B feedwater heater. The licensee observed an unexpected pressure drop inside the feedwater heater during this evolution.

On February 20, 2005, the Clinton Power Station operators noted an increase in feedwater condensate conductivity. Chemistry sample results indicated that a main condenser tube leak of approximately 2.5 gallons per minute had occurred. The operators reduced reactor power to 27 percent to facilitate main condenser tube repairs. Following main condenser tube repairs on February 22, 2005, the licensee shutdown the reactor to investigate the cause of the automatic isolation of the 4B low pressure feedwater heater.

Following the unit shutdown, the licensee entered the main condenser. During this entry, the licensee identified that the thermal expansion bellows for the extraction steam line to the 4B feedwater heater had catastrophically failed. The licensee also identified other damage internal to the main condenser. The licensee's investigation into the cause of the extraction steam line failure and the appropriate repair methods are ongoing.

Additional forced outage work scope includes replacement of the 'B' reactor recirculation pump upper seal which had a slowly increasing trend in pressure.

The resident inspectors were notified of the initial power reduction on February 20, 2005. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 6:00 p.m. on February 24, 2005.

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