

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-I-05-15

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
Docket: 50-354

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN EXPECTED TO BE GREATER THAN 72 HOURS TO REPAIR A STEAM LEAK FROM A CHEMICAL DECONTAMINATION PIPE ON THE 'B' REACTOR RECIRCULATION LOOP

Hope Creek has been tracking an upward trend in unidentified leakage since February 2005. The leakage increased from 0.15 gallons per minute (gpm) to 0.73 gpm. Although this is below the Technical Specification limit of 5 gpm on unidentified leakage, Hope Creek commenced a downpower on March 26 to identify and repair the leak.

Following the unit shutdown, the licensee entered the drywell. Plant personnel identified a steam leak at the location of an insulated decontamination connection on the reactor coolant system. The decontamination connection, which is sealed with a bolted blank flange/cover during plant operations, is a pipe approximately one foot long and 4 inches in diameter. This pipe is welded to the reactor coolant system piping on the suction side of the 'B' reactor recirculation pump. The connection is designed to be used on an infrequent basis during outage periods when a hose is bolted to the flange and chemicals are flushed through it to decontaminate the piping system.

The licensee made the decision to transition the plant to cold shutdown to repair the leak. After the plant reached cold shutdown, the licensee was able to remove insulation from the piping and further inspect the leak source. It was determined that the leak was coming from a 3 inch through wall crack on a weld at the decontamination connection.

The licensee is currently developing plans for repairing the weld, identifying the scope of additional weld inspections and conducting a root cause analysis of the cracked weld. The resident inspectors and a pipe weld specialist will continue to provide oversight of the outage.

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

ADAMS Accession Number: ML050880356

CONTACT: Samuel Hansell
(610) 337-5171

DISTRIBUTION: (PN Recipient List)

<u>OWFN</u>	<u>TWFN</u>	<u>LST</u>
Chairman Meserve	IRO	PDR
Comm. Dicus	NMSS	
Comm. Diaz	ACRS	
Comm. McGaffigan Jr.	OIG	
Comm. Merrifield	RES	
OIP	NSIR	
OCA		
OGC		
OPA		
EDO		
OE		
NRR		
SECY		
Regional Offices		

By Fax:
 DOT:Trans
 INPO
 NSAC
 RI Resident Office
 Licensee: _____

ML050880356

SISP Review Complete: SLH (Reviewer's Initials)

DOCUMENT NAME: E:\Filenet\ML050880356.wpd

After declaring this document "An Official Agency Record" it **will** be released to the Public.
 To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RI/ORA	RI/ORA	RI/DRP	RI/DRP
NAME	RBores/RJB	DScrenci/DPS	SHansell/SLH	JTrapp/JMT
DATE	03/29/05	03/29/05	03/29/05	03/29/05

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

(Rev. July 2, 2003)