

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-05-022

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

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
AmerGen Energy Company
Forked River, New Jersey

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket No.: 05000219

License No.: DPR-16

SUBJECT: ALERT DECLARATION AT OYSTER CREEK

At approximately 04:03 a.m. EST on August 6, 2005, the licensee declared an ALERT as the result of low intake level in the north side of the intake. Within three minutes, water level recovered when the two circulating water pumps on the north side were secured. Based on recovery of the intake water level, the licensee de-escalated to an UNUSUAL EVENT at 04:06 a.m. EST on August 6, 2005.

The cause of the low intake level in the north side of the intake was determined to be excessive grass loading at the intake. The excessive debris caused a partial collapse of the grating on all three trash racks in the north intake. The resultant debris caused the traveling screens for the north side to clog, resulting in the low intake level. During the event, the licensee reduced power level to 44%. The primary plant remained in a stable condition throughout the event and safety systems were maintained. Once the traveling screens were restored and intake level recovered, the licensee terminated the UNUSUAL EVENT at 07:55 a.m. on August 6, 2005.

The licensee replaced the grating on the north intake trash racks and returned to 100 % power at approximately 7:30 p.m. on August 7, 2005.

The NRC resident inspectors responded to the site and monitored the licensee's response to the event and recovery efforts.

State and local officials were notified of the event. The utility issued a news release. Region I responded to press inquiries.

A one-hour notification report was made to the NRC Headquarters Operations Officer on August 6, 2005 at 4:42 a.m. EST. This information has been discussed with AmerGen management and is current as of 10:30 a.m. August 8, 2005.

The State of New Jersey has been notified by the NRC.

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Licensee: AmerGen Energy Company
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