

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE-PNO-I-05-026

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. 05000354

License No. NPF-57

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN EXPECTED TO BE GREATER THAN 72 HOURS TO REPAIR AN INOPERABLE DRYWELL TO SUPPRESSION CHAMBER VACUUM BREAKER

Public Service Enterprise Group's (PSEG) Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station initiated a plant shutdown to comply with Technical Specifications due to an open drywell to suppression chamber vacuum breaker. The unit shutdown was initiated at noon on August 28, 2005.

PSEG identified that the 'B' drywell to suppression chamber vacuum breaker position indication began cycling at 3:25 a.m. on August 28, 2005. PSEG entered Technical Specification 3.6.4.1 for an inoperable vacuum breaker. Plant personnel attempted to close the vacuum breaker both from the control room and by establishing a differential pressure between the drywell and suppression chamber airspace. These attempts were not successful. The open or partially open vacuum breaker affects the pressure suppression safety function of the suppression chamber in the event of a postulated loss of coolant accident.

The unit entered hot shutdown at 5:15 p.m. on August 28, 2005, and entered cold shutdown at 9:33 a.m. on August 29, 2005. PSEG plans to enter the suppression chamber to determine the cause of the condition and perform repairs. PSEG also intends to perform other forced outage maintenance activities, including correcting a packing leak on the 'D' inboard main steam isolation valve and replacing the 'F' safety relief valve.

PSEG notified the NRC Resident Inspectors of the condition requiring plant shutdown, and the residents responded to the site to observe the plant shutdown. The information presented herein has been discussed with PSEG and is current as of 11:40 a.m. on August 29, 2005.

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

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