

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-I-07-006A

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

Amergen Energy Company, LLC  
Oyster Creek  
Forked River, NJ  
Docket: 50-219

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - REACTOR SCRAM ON LOW REACTOR VESSEL WATER LEVEL  
DUE TO A TRIP OF THE 'C' REACTOR FEED PUMP

On July 17, 2007, at 5:22 a.m., the Oyster Creek reactor scrammed due to a low reactor water level following a trip of the 'C' Reactor Feed Pump (RFP). Reactor water level reached the low level setpoint which, among other actions, automatically isolated the main steam isolation valves and initiated the isolation condensers. The isolation condensers steam off plant condensate to remove decay heat. Although there was no abnormal amount of radioactivity released during the event, a small amount of activity was released by steaming off condensate that contained trace amounts of radioactive tritium. The preliminary estimates of the activity released was about 1.05 curies which resulted in a worst case offsite dose of about 0.005 millirem which is about 3000 times less than the annual organ limit of 15 millirem and 25 millirem total body.

Immediately prior to the scram, reactor water level had decreased due to a steam flow/feed flow mismatch. After the scram, water level increased due to excessive feeding causing a high reactor water level which necessitated cycling two Electromagnetic Relief Valves (EMRVs). The steam relief from the EMRVs caused an increase in the torus temperature that was controlled by using the Containment Spray System in torus cooling mode. No emergency action level was declared as a result of this event. The reactor was placed in a cold shutdown condition at 2:00 p.m., July 17, 2007.

Preliminary information indicates that the 'C' RFP tripped due to an electrical fault. Planned licensee actions include a review to determine the cause of the 'C' RFP trip, repairs to the 'C' RFP, and a review of plant and operator response during the event.

The NRC resident inspector responded to the site and has been supported by regional inspectors during the NRC's initial assessment of this event. The NRC is continuing to assess the licensee's response to this event. The facts of this Preliminary Notification were verified with the Oyster Creek Plant Manager and were current as of 4:00 p.m., July 17, 2007.

AmerGen has issued an event notification (EN #43495) in accordance to 10 CFR 50.72 and has issued press releases. The state of New Jersey has been notified.

UPDATE - On July 21, 2007, AmerGen commenced reactor startup at 10:50 p.m. and achieved criticality at 1:11 a.m. on July 22. The generator was placed on line at 6:56 p.m. that evening. Major work during the forced outage included repairs of 'B' High Pressure Feedheater and Intermediate Range Nuclear Instrumentation, and replacement of the 'C' RFP motor. Repairs continue on the motor of the 'C' RFP due to vibration and will limit the plant power to 70% until this issue is resolved. NRC inspectors observed portions of the repair and startup activities.

This PN is issued for information only and no further updates are anticipated.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML072040203

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Licensee: AmerGen Energy Company, LLC  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

ADAMS ML072040203

**SUNSI Review Complete: AAR (Reviewer's Initials)**

DOCUMENT NAME: T:\DRP\PNs\PNO-I-07-006A UPDATE Oyster Creek scam due to a loss of C RFP Rev 2.wpd

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