

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-I-07-010

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
 Three Mile Island
 Middletown, PA
 Docket: 50-289

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO INDICATION OF UNEXPECTED INVENTORY LOSS WHILE IN A DRAIN DOWN CONDITION.

On November 13, 2007, at 6:32 a.m., Three Mile Island declared an Unusual Event due to an unexpected indication of loss of Reactor Coolant System (RCS) inventory while in a drain down condition. Unit 1 was in Mode 6 (Refueling) with RCS level at 13.7 inches above the centerline of the hot leg when indicated RCS level dropped to 10.4 inches with no draining activities in progress. Workers were in the process of installing the lower diaphragm on the once through steam generator (OTSG) manway covers at the time of the event. A temporary ventilation and filtration system for contamination control was in place at the top of the OTSG. The licensee secured this ventilation system at 6:41 a.m. and indicated RCS level returned to 13.7 inches immediately. The RCS temperature was 94 degrees F and RCS pressure was atmospheric and remained stable throughout the event. Walk downs by plant personnel revealed no indication of actual RCS inventory loss. RCS level indication was being monitored by two channels of installed instrumentation and two temporary tygon tube manometers.

AmerGen indicated that the likely cause of the event was a vacuum condition created during the installation of the steam generator lower manway covers while operating the temporary ventilation system which was drawing air out of the OTSG. This resulted in indications that level had dropped. The licensee concluded that no actual loss of RCS inventory occurred.

The NRC resident inspectors were on site and were supported by regional staff during the NRC's initial assessment of this event. The NRC entered the monitoring mode of incident response at 07:30 a.m. and has continued to assess the licensee's response to this event. The NRC exited the monitoring mode at 10:01 a.m. The resident inspectors are following up on the activities and procedures associated with the manway installation evolution, as well as the licensee's own evaluation of the sequence of events to determine if any procedural vulnerabilities exist, etc. The facts of this Preliminary Notification were verified with Bill Carsky, Operations Director, Three Mile Island and were current as of 10:00 a.m., November 13, 2007.

The licensee exited the Notification of Unusual Event at 9:29 a.m. and has issued a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified. NRC Region I Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

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

ADAMS Accession Number: ML073170423

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Licensee: AmerGen Energy Company, LLC

Three Mile Island

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SUNSI Review Complete: AAR (Reviewer's Initials)

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