

June 16, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-08-006

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 III staff on this date.

Facilities

Duane Arnold Energy Center
Florida Power and Light
Palo, IA
Docket: 50-331
License: DPR-49

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STATUS OF DUANE ARNOLD NOTICE OF UNUSUAL EVENT

DESCRIPTION:

At approximately 2:40 p.m. CDT on June 12, 2008, the plant declared an unusual event due to the loss of three major sources of telecommunications (commercial phone lines, microwave communication system and federal telephone system) from rising floodwaters. The NRC entered monitoring mode at 3:03 p.m. CDT on June 12, 2008, in response to the event. At 12:23 a.m. CDT on June 16, 2008, the NRC exited monitoring mode after the licensee had established partial commercial phone service; however, the plant remains in the unusual event pending full restoration of at least two of the three telecommunications sources.

The site has partially restored commercial phone service to provide incoming and outgoing long distance service, as well as outgoing local service. Incoming local service is currently unavailable and work is ongoing to restore this capability. The licensee also has portable satellite phones available and cell phone service. The licensee is continuing efforts to restore the microwave communications capability. Access to the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) was also restored and was verified to be operable.

Levels in the Cedar River at the plant peaked at about 751 feet above mean sea level at approximately 3:00 a.m. CDT on June 13, 2008. As of 7:30 a.m. CDT on June 16, 2008, river level was 745.3 feet and declining. Although local roads in the area are degraded from the flooding, normal access to the plant is available.

The NRC resident inspectors continue to monitor the situation at the plant.

The State of Iowa has been informed. The information in the preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m. CDT on Monday, June 16, 2008.

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