

DCS No.: 500038810272008
Date: October 27, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-I-08-011

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

PPL Susquehanna, LLC
Susquehanna, Unit 2
Berwick, PA
Docket: 50-388

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: ALERT DECLARED DUE TO HIGH NITROGEN LEVELS IN A UNIT
2 SAFETY-RELATED PUMP ROOM

On October 27, 2008 at 12:06 p.m., PPL Susquehanna, LLC declared an Alert at Susquehanna Unit 2 for high nitrogen levels in a Unit 2 Residual Heat Removal (RHR) room. Liquid nitrogen was being used to freeze water in a portion of the essential service water system to allow maintenance work on a section of piping. The high levels of nitrogen resulted in an oxygen deficient atmosphere. Once that condition was detected, the plant workers in the room at the time evacuated. No injuries were reported. Oxygen levels were returned to normal.

There are no offsite impacts as a result of the event. Susquehanna Unit 2 remains at 100 percent power. Unit 1 was not affected and continues to operate at 94 percent power. Safety systems not directly related to the maintenance remained available and were unaffected.

PPL Susquehanna, LLC will exit the Alert following restoration of the piping removed during the maintenance.

The NRC resident inspectors were onsite and responded to the main control room and emergency response facilities. The Agency entered the monitoring mode of incident response to follow the licensee's actions and evaluate plant safety performance. NRC Region I, in King of Prussia, PA, staffed its Incident Response Center and contacted the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Region I Public Affairs Office issued a press release and has responded to media inquiries.

The information presented herein has been discussed with PPL Susquehanna, LLC and is current as of October 27, at 4:00 p.m.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only, and no further preliminary notification update by the staff is anticipated.

ADAMS Accession Number: **ML083010588**

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ML0830105888

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