

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-I-09-002A

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

Exelon Generation 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 - SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS: MANUAL REACTOR SCRAM FOLLOWING LOSS OF COOLING TO MAIN TRANSFORMER

This preliminary notification supplements information in PNO-I-09-002, which documented a manual reactor scram due to a loss of cooling to one of its main transformers at the Oyster Creek Generating Station on April 25.

At 6:36 p.m., on May 2, Oyster Creek commenced start up and the reactor became critical at 10:46 p.m. Currently, the main generator is synchronized to the grid and the plant is holding power at 70% until replacement of the 'C' feed water pump motor is completed. The NRC resident staff monitored plant start up and continues to assess licensee activities.

The cause of the loss of cooling to the main transformer which resulted in the manual reactor scram was a failed auxiliary control power transformer which supplied power to the main transformer's oil pumps and fans control circuitry. During the shutdown, Exelon replaced the auxiliary control power transformer and made additional modifications to the power supply logic for both main transformers. Exelon also performed maintenance on the "A" feedwater system and began activities to replace the "C" feedwater pump motor.

Exelon continues its investigation into the source of tritium in water identified in a cable vault on April 16 (NRC Event Number 44993). Sections of two underground condensate transfer pipes identified with leaks were replaced prior to restart. Exelon continues to perform daily samples of water from on-site sampling wells, the plant's intake and discharge canals. Sampling has not shown any detectable levels of tritium off-site. Exelon is also making plans to inspect the condensate storage tank. The NRC staff is onsite and continues to closely monitor Exelon's investigation and environmental sampling for tritium.

The information contained in the preliminary notification has been verified with Exelon (P. Orphanos, Plant Manager) and is current as of May 4, 2009 at 11:15 a.m.

The NRC continues to keep the State of New Jersey informed of this issue.

Region I Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

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Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

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