

August 5, 2009

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-09-004

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 IV, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

Facility

Energy Northwest
Columbia Generating Station
Docket: 50-397 License: NPF-21

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION UNUSUAL EVENT AND AUTOMATIC REACTOR SCRAM DUE TO FIRE RESULTING IN POSSIBLE TOXIC GAS

DESCRIPTION:

At 7:47 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time on August 5, 2009, a fire in the turbine building occurred near non safety-related switchgear SM-3, which led to an automatic turbine trip and reactor scram. Both trains of reactor recirculation pumps tripped, and control room operators manually initiated a main steam isolation to prevent plant overcooling. All other plant systems responded as expected to the scram with all control rods inserting. Control room operators stabilized the plant in hot shutdown and maintained pressure and temperature in the normal band by using the safety relief valves. Offsite power availability was unaffected by the transient. Energy Northwest declared an Unusual Event at 8:12 a.m. due to the fire producing potential toxic and flammable gasses affecting a protected area boundary that could affect safe plant operation. The fire was extinguished at 8:11 a.m. by the on-site fire brigade, and the Unusual Event was terminated at 10:06 a.m.

The Senior Resident Inspector was onsite and responded to the event.

The State of Washington and the State of Oregon have been informed.

The facts of this PN have been verified with Energy Northwest as of August 5, 2009, at 12:00 p.m. This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML092170791

CONTACTS: Wayne Walker
817-320-3675