

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

October 19, 2009

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE –
PNO-III-09-012

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.

Facility

Perry Nuclear Power Plant
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co.
Perry, Ohio
Docket: 50-440
License: NPF-58

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MANUAL REACTOR SCRAM DURING PLANNED SHUTDOWN

DESCRIPTION:

On Friday October 16, 2009, at 12:48 a.m. EDT, operators at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, while shutting down the facility, manually scrambled the reactor and placed it in a safe, stable condition.

On Thursday, October 15, the licensee had started to shut down the facility to repair one of three emergency service water pumps. The licensee believed that the time it would take to identify and correct the problem with the pump would exceed the time allowed by the NRC requirements for the pump to be out-of-service.

The shutdown was proceeding as expected until operators attempted to switch the two reactor recirculation pumps from high to low speed. One of the pumps did not shift to low speed and tripped. While the facility is allowed to operate with only one of the pumps operating, the operators conservatively chose to scram the facility.

The licensee is currently working on the emergency service water pump, the failure of the recirculation pump, and a number of other items scheduled for a forced outage.

NRC resident inspectors assisted by inspectors from the NRC Region 3 Office are monitoring the licensee's activities.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 08:30 a.m. on October 19, 2009.

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