

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

March 16, 2010

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE: PNO-III-10-003

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
First Energy Nuclear Operating Company
Oak Harbor, Ohio
Docket: 50-346

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: DAVIS-BESSE CONTROL ROD DRIVE MECHANISM NOZZLE INDICATIONS

While performing NRC required inspections on Friday, March 12, Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS) workers identified potential cracks in some of the control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) nozzles inspected. At the time DBNPS was conducting planned ultrasonic (UT) examinations on the CRDM nozzles which penetrate the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head. The reactor is in a safe condition and has been shut down for a scheduled refueling outage since February 28, 2010.

Additionally, during the bare metal visual examination of the outer surface of the RPV head, dried boron deposits were found at two of the CRDM nozzles, which is indicative of possible primary water leakage. A visual examination and a UT examination is being performed on the RPV head. As of March 15, 2010, the utility has completed examinations on 50 of the 69 nozzles for the first set of planned UT examinations. When the utility is ready they will provide an action plan for the nozzle repair activities to the NRC.

The NRC Resident Inspectors continue to monitor the licensee's outage activities as well as the progress and outcome of the CRDM nozzle examinations and RPV head inspection. The NRC has sent additional inspectors from the Region III office to support the resident inspectors' review of the issues related to the RPV head. Experts from the Region bring detailed knowledge to the monitoring and oversight efforts.

The NRC will review the utility repair plan and conduct inspections as the repairs are being made before the plant can restart to ensure safe operation.

The State of Ohio has been notified.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

Region III received initial notification of this occurrence by a telephone call from the licensee at 4:45 a.m. (EST) on March 13, 2010 (refer to Event Notification No. 45764). The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 11:30 a.m. Central Daylight Savings Time, March 15, 2010.

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