

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

December 17, 2010

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-10-018

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Point Beach, Unit 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
NextEra Energy Point Beach	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Two Rivers, WI	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-301	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
License: DPR-27	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH UNIT 2 REACTOR UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN DUE TO CONTROL ROD DRIVE PROBLEMS

DESCRIPTION:

On Monday, December 13, 2010, at 5:03 p.m. (Central Standard Time), the licensee shut down the Point Beach Unit 2 reactor because a periodic test to make sure the control rods will insert into the reactor to shut it down automatically, if necessary, could not be completed. One of the control rods failed to move the full range required by the test. Unit 1 remains at full power.

The licensee performed tests to identify the cause of the problem and tested all control rods to ensure they were operating properly in preparation for restarting the reactor. The licensee was unable to determine the cause of the problem. The testing of the control rods revealed they could insert into the reactor, as required. The NRC resident inspectors reviewed the licensee's actions and identified no concerns.

On Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at about 1:48 a.m., the licensee attempted to restart the reactor. As operators were moving control rods out of the reactor, most of the control rods automatically returned into the reactor. Control room operators then inserted the remaining rods. At that time, the reactor was still shut down. An NRC inspector was in the control room at the time of the attempted startup. He identified no problems with control room personnel performance and equipment response to the re-insertion of the control rods into the reactor.

Unit 2 remains shut down and is in a safe condition. This issue presented no threat to the safety of the plant, plant workers, or the public.

Currently, the licensee is taking steps to identify and correct any problems with the control rod drive system and associated cabling. An NRC regional electrical engineer inspector was onsite and reviewed the licensee's troubleshooting activities. The NRC resident inspectors continue to monitor troubleshooting activities at the plant.

The State of Wisconsin has been informed.

The event was reported to the NRC at 2:07 p.m. on December 13, 2010. This information has been reviewed with licensee management and is current as of 1:00 p.m., December 17, 2010.

ADAMS Accession Number ML103510549.

CONTACTS: Steve Burton Mike Kunowski
 (920) 755-2309 (630) 829-9618