

January 21, 2011

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-11-001

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 by the Region II staff (Atlanta, GA).

Facility:

McGuire Nuclear Station
Units 1 and 2
Huntersville, NC
Docket Nos.: 50-369, 50-370

Licensee Emergency Classification:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notification of Unusual Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Alert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Site Area Emergency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | General Emergency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable |

SUBJECT: SHUT DOWN DUE TO SERVICE WATER STRAINER BLOCKAGE

On January 18, 2011, the 1B Nuclear Service Water (RN) pump strainer experienced blockage during a surveillance test while aligned to the Standby Nuclear Service Water Pond (SNSWP). The source of blockage was determined to be small bluegill fish present in the B RN train shared suction header. On January 20, at 11:10 a.m., the licensee entered Technical Specification (TS) Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.0.3 on both units for two trains of RN inoperable, requiring shutdown to Mode 5 (Cold Shutdown).

The SNSWP is the ultimate heat sink for McGuire, while Lake Normal is the normal suction source of the RN system. Currently, the RN system is aligned to Lake Norman, supplying sufficient cooling water to both units.

On January 20, the licensee shut down both units to Mode 3 (Hot Standby) and requested enforcement discretion not to proceed to Mode 5. In its request, the licensee noted that the turbine driven auxiliary feedwater pump (CATDP) is available in Mode 3 to provide core cooling should service water be lost. In Mode 5, core cooling relies heavily on service water since steam is not available to drive the CATDP.

Based on no net increase in radiological risk to the public, the Notice of Enforcement Discretion (NOED) request was granted at 11:36 p.m., on January 20, 2011. The licensee has initiated actions to address the strainer blockage issue and restore both RN trains to an operable status by 12:00 p.m., on January 25. Removal of the fouling source from the SNSWP is a necessary prompt corrective action. Additional long term corrective actions were already in progress to restore the licensing basis of the backwash function of the RN strainers.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. The NRC continues to monitor the licensee's actions.

The Senior Resident Inspector at McGuire received initial notification of the TS LCO 3.0.3 entry at 11:30 a.m., on January 20 and an Event Notification (EN #46557) was issued by the licensee. Currently the units remain in Mode 3. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 11:00 a.m., January 21, 2011.

The state of North Carolina has been notified.

ADAMS Accession Number: MLXXXXXXXXXX

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