

December 2, 2013

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-II-13-008A

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:

Duke Power Co.
Oconee Unit 1
Seneca, SC
Docket No (s): 50-269

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE: OCONEE UNIT 1 SHUTDOWN DUE TO REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM (RCS) PRESSURE BOUNDARY LEAKAGE

This preliminary notification (PN) provides an update to PNO-II-13-008 which was issued on November 12, 2013, after the licensee identified RCS pressure boundary leakage and shutdown the unit as required by technical specifications (ML13316C262). Upon further investigation, the licensee identified a steam leak where the high pressure injection (HPI) system injects into the RCS cold leg.

In response, the licensee investigated the leak and determined that it was caused by a circumferential crack in the weld between the safe end of the HPI nozzle and the HPI piping. To repair the leak the licensee removed a portion of the safe end weld to preserve the flaw for analysis, restored the nozzle to original design, aligned the HPI piping and performed an extent of condition evaluation.

The NRC conducted follow up inspections using the resident inspectors and a specialist from the Division of Reactor Safety. These inspectors reviewed the licensee's repair to the HPI nozzle and the extent of condition evaluation and found that the licensee's actions were adequate. The reactor coolant system was refilled, HPI testing was completed, and heat-up to normal operating pressure and temperature commenced on November 29, 2013. The reactor was restarted on December 1, 2013, and the unit has been returned to full power operation. The resident inspectors monitored the licensee's actions to startup and return the unit to operation. The NRC's inspection activities will be documented in the NRC quarterly inspection report to be issued at the end of January 2014. This report will be publically available in ADAMS.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. The State of South Carolina has been notified.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence through the resident inspector who had been informed via telephone by the licensee on Sunday, November 10 at 9:00 am. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 4:00 p.m., December 2, 2013.

ADAMS Accession Number - ML13337A364

CONTACT: Gerald McCoy
404-997-4551
Gerald.McCoy@nrc.gov