

September 18, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-2-00-038

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Florida Power Corporation
Crystal River 3
Crystal River, Florida
Dockets: 50-302

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: Response to Hurricane Gordon

Florida Power Corporation implemented their abnormal operating procedures and declared a Notification of Unusual Event (NOUE) for Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Plant at 11:15 p.m. on September 16, based upon a hurricane warning for the area where the plant is located. The licensee staffed its Technical Support Center and closed the site to incoming and outgoing personnel on September 17.

At 8:00 p.m., on September 17, 2000, Tropical Storm Gordon made landfall near Cedar Key, Florida, just north of the Crystal River site. Gordon was downgraded from a hurricane just before landfall. The highest wind speeds detected onsite were about 40 miles per hour. There was some localized flooding in areas near the plant. Crystal River Unit 3 remained at 100 percent power throughout the storm.

The NRC senior resident inspector monitored licensee activities onsite throughout the storm. The Region II Incident Response Center was activated in the enhanced hurricane tracking mode from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on September 17. The Region II State Liaison Officer was dispatched to the State of Florida Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee, Florida. He coordinated with the State and local agencies as well as Region IV of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The licensee exited the NOUE on September 18 at 12:35 a.m.

The NRC Headquarters Operations Center was informed by telephone of the NOUE at 11:43 p.m. on September 16. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 9:00 a.m. on September 17, 2000.

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