

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-039

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

Carolina Power & Light Company
Brunswick 2
Southport, North Carolina
Dockets: 50-324

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: FIRE IN B MAIN POWER TRANSFORMER

Carolina Power & Light Corporation declared a Notification of Unusual Event (NOUE) at 04:00 a.m., on September 22, 2000, for Brunswick Unit 2 due to a fire in the B main power transformer that lasted greater than ten minutes. The transformer failure on Unit 2 caused a turbine trip followed by a reactor trip at 03:46 a.m.

All control rods fully inserted and the plant is stable in mode 3 (hot shutdown) with the condenser being used as the heat sink. No unexpected ESF actuations occurred. Offsite power was not affected during the event and the emergency diesel generators started, but did not load as designed. Following the reactor trip, feedwater control did not adequately control in the automatic mode and reactor water level was manually controlled using a feedwater bypass valve. Unit 1 was not affected during the event and remains at 100% power.

The fire was reported to the control room at 03:46 a.m., on September 22, 2000, and assistance was requested from the offsite fire department. However, the transformer deluge system and the site fire brigade extinguished the fire without help from the offsite fire department at 04:02 a.m., on September 22, 2000. The residents were notified, responded to the site and have been evaluating the activities associated with the event.

The Unusual Event was terminated at 05:12 a.m., and no injuries were reported due to the fire. The licensee is investigating the cause of the fire and has issued a press release for the event.

The NRC Headquarters Operations Center was informed by telephone of the NOUE at 04:00 a.m., on September 22, 2000. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 10:00 a.m., on September 22, 2000.

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