

July 6, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-01-020A

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.

Facility

Dresden 3
Exelon Nuclear
Morris IL
Docket No. 50-249

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MANUAL REACTOR SCRAM DUE TO INCREASING DRYWELL PRESSURE
(UPDATE)

DESCRIPTION:

At 10:06 a.m. CDT on July 5, 2001, plant operators manually scrammed the reactor because of increasing pressure within the reactor drywell. All safety systems functioned normally during the shutdown.

Unit 2 was not affected by the shutdown and remained at 100 percent power.

The licensee declared an Alert under its emergency procedures at 10:19 a.m. The NRC entered the monitoring phase of the normal mode, the lowest level of agency emergency response, at 11:09 a.m. and staffed its headquarters Operation Center and the Region III (Chicago) incident response center. The NRC resident inspectors monitored plant activities at the site.

Subsequently, the licensee determined that the cause of the high drywell pressure was due to the loss of containment cooling. A temperature control valve in the service water outlet of the B train reactor building closed cooling water system heat exchanger failed. Plant operators started the A train of the reactor building closed cooling water system, restoring containment cooling. The drywell temperature and pressure began trending to normal levels.

The licensee pumped out and measured water in the drywell sump to confirm that no leakage from the reactor cooling system was associated with the event. Radiation levels and air samples in the drywell were also normal. There was no release of radioactivity to the environment as a result of the event.

The alert classification was terminated at 4:02 p.m. CDT. The NRC terminated its response mode at 4:37 p.m.

After completing equipment realignment, the licensee began preparations for returning the plant to operation. The licensee commenced reactor startup at 7:20 a.m. CDT on July 6, 2001. The NRC resident inspectors, assisted by a resident inspector from a nearby plant, are continuing to monitor plant activities. Region III is evaluating the need for a Special Inspection Team to further evaluate the event.

The licensee issued two news releases on the shutdown.

The State of Illinois will be informed of this updated information. The information in this

preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

Region III (Chicago) was informed of the shutdown by the Senior Resident Inspector at 10:25 a.m. CDT on July 5, 2001. This information is current as of 8:00 a.m. on July 6, 2001.

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