

August 23, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-037

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 IV staff on this date.

Facility

Entergy Operations, Inc.
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Port Gibson, Mississippi
Docket: 50-416
License: NPF-29

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION SHUTDOWN FOR RECIRCULATION PUMP
SEAL REPLACEMENT

DESCRIPTION:

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station conducted a normal reactor shutdown at 5:25 a.m. on August 23, 2001, to replace the seal package on Recirculation Pump B. The inner seal failed on August 11, 2001, during power ascension when the pump was shifted to fast speed. The outer seal has been providing the seal function since that time. Each seal is capable of providing the full pump shaft-sealing function. The licensee had been monitoring the differential temperature across the failed seal, the leakage from the pump shaft leakoff line, and pump vibration for any observable changes and planned to shut down if increases were observed. Due to a slow, but gradual, increase in pump vibration and a small increase in seal leakage into the drywell, the licensee decided to shut down the plant and replace the seal package. No problems were observed during the plant shutdown.

The states of Louisiana and Mississippi have been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the General Manager of Plant Operations on August 22, 2001. Region IV has informed the EDO's office, NRR, and the PAO.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:30 a.m. on August 23, 2001.

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