

Date: October 3, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-02-017

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 I staff on this date.

Facility

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station
Units 1 and 2
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
Berwick, PA 18603-0035

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket Nos.: 050-387
 050-388
License Nos.: NPF-14
 NPF-22

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL EVENT DECLARED DUE TO ONSITE FIRE/EXPLOSION WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREA

On October 3, 2002, a transformer failure resulted in a loss of one of the two offsite power sources to the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. At 3:15 a.m. plant operators declared an Unusual Event due to a fire and explosive failure of Startup Transformer (T-20). T-20 is located outside and adjacent to the Unit-2 Turbine Building and within the protected area of the plant. The event occurred at approximately 2:30 a.m. The fire was extinguished in about 10 minutes by the automatic response of the fire deluge system. PPL terminated the Unusual Event at 5:52 a.m. The damage from the fire appears to be limited to the startup transformer and the immediate surrounding area. PPL's initial investigation of the cause of the failure was able to rule out any malicious act and is now focusing on internal failures or solar magnetic effects.

The Unit-1 reactor was at 100% power and Unit-2 reactor was critical at low power in the process of starting up at the time of the loss of T-20. Following the loss of T-20, the essential loads on T-20 automatically swapped to the T-10 Startup Transformer. Unit-1 continued to operate at 100% power and was minimally affected by the loss of T-20. The operators manually shutdown Unit-2 because both reactor recirculation pumps tripped as a result of the loss of T-20.

As of 2 p.m. on October 3, Unit-1 was at 100% power with one of the offsite power sources to Unit-1 unavailable because of the loss of the T-20. PPL is evaluating repair options to restore the second offsite power source. The T-10 Startup Transformer is available as the offsite power source for both Units-1 and 2. Unit-2 is proceeding to cold shutdown.

The resident inspectors responded to the event and observed control room activities. PPL made initial notifications to the state, local officials and NRC.

The Region I Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

The information presented herein has been discussed with PPL and is current as of 1:00 p.m. on October 3, 2002.

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