

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-02-020

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**

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
AmerGen Energy Company  
Forked River, New Jersey

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Docket No.: 05000219

License No.: DPR-16

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO A HYDROGEN GAS IGNITION IN THE OFF-GAS SYSTEM (#39348)

At 2:40 p.m., an Unusual Event was declared following a hydrogen gas ignition in the off-gas system from the main condenser. No one was injured and there was no radiological release caused by the event. The plant remained in stable operation at full power throughout the event.

Following identification of the hydrogen gas ignition, AmerGen conducted a walk down of the equipment in the off-gas system to identify any potential damage. AmerGen also performed surveys for elevated hydrogen and radiation levels. No equipment damage was identified. No elevated levels of hydrogen or radioactivity were identified from the surveys. Following completion of these activities, AmerGen terminated this Unusual Event at 6:55 p.m.

The initiator of the hydrogen detonation is still under review, but appears to be associated with testing that was being conducted to measure condenser air in-leakage. This involved temporary instrumentation being connected to the off-gas system in the turbine building.

AmerGen Energy Company issued a press release on the event on the evening of November 6, and notified state authorities and the NRC resident inspectors.

This information has been discussed with AmerGen management and is current as of noon on November 7, 2002.

The NRC resident inspectors remained onsite throughout this event and are monitoring AmerGen's event evaluation review.

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\* Reviewed earlier version