

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-03-003

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

Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1
First Energy Nuclear Operating Co. (FENOC)
Shippingport, PA

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket No.: 05000334

License No.: DPR-66

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO A SAFETY INJECTION SIGNAL AND CLOSURE OF THE MAIN STEAM ISOLATION VALVES (#39616)

On February 24 at 3:48 p.m., Beaver Valley Unit 1 experienced an automatic safety injection actuation due to low steam line pressure followed by an automatic reactor trip. As a result, an automatic main steam line isolation also occurred. The control room operators immediately responded to the event using their emergency operating procedures and operators were dispatched to the field to look for evidence of a steam leak/rupture that could have caused the low steam line pressure. At 4:00 p.m., the Shift Manager declared an Unusual Event due to the indicated low steam line pressure coupled with an actual safety injection actuation. Subsequent field reports indicated that there was no failure of the main steam system. Following verification that the appropriate criteria was met, the operators terminated the safety injection at 4:03 p.m. While the high head safety injection system did inject water into the reactor coolant system, the injection was terminated prior to filling the pressurizer. State and local agencies were notified of the Unusual Event at 4:09 p.m. The Unusual Event was terminated at 5:35 p.m. based on completion of the emergency operating procedure actions, termination of safety injection, and the plant being stable at normal operating temperature and pressure.

Licensee preliminary investigation revealed that the 'C' main steam isolation valve (MSIV) spuriously closed, causing a rapid flow increase and corresponding depressurization of the remaining two main steam headers. This rate-of-change in steam pressure caused the safety injection actuation.

The plant is currently stable in Mode 3 and heat removal is being achieved via the steam generator atmospheric dump valves. Following completion of repairs to an unrelated problem with a main condenser steam dump valve, heat removal will be transferred over to the main condenser via the steam dump system. As reported in the initial 50.72 report, a small amount of tritium was released to the environment from the steam generator during this event. FENOC projected an offsite exposure of $5.1E-7$ mRem (whole body dose), which is equivalent to $3.4E-6$ percent of the yearly Offsite Dose Calculation Manual Limit. This amount of tritium would not be detectable in the environment above normal environmental background.

The NRC residents observed the licensee post-trip response and continue to monitor plant activities.

The contents of this PN have been communicated to the Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia state governments.

This information has been discussed with FENOC management and is current as of 2:00 p.m. on February 25, 2003. Region 1 public affairs is responding to media inquiries.

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*Discussed with Bob