

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-03-016

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: BARGAINING UNIT STRIKE AT OYSTER CREEK (#39876)

At noon today, the bargaining unit workers represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 1289) commenced a strike at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant. The union represents all bargaining unit workers at Oyster Creek (approximately 230 people), including reactor and auxiliary operators, but does not include the security force members. A picket line has been established at the plant entrance on Route 9; the picketers have not interfered with the transit of management employees or contract security guards on and off the site. Local law enforcement is monitoring the picket line.

The plant is currently in cold shutdown following an electrical transient on May 20 that forced a plant shutdown due to the loss of an emergency electrical bus. The plant had planned to remain in cold shutdown while replacing a faulted electrical cable which caused this electrical bus loss.

The existing union contract expired almost four months ago; the union had agreed with AmerGen to continue the current contract on a day-to-day basis while negotiations continued. The union decided to call this strike today on a one-hour notice.

Region I reviewed AmerGen's strike contingency plans in February and has maintained a watchbill for round-the-clock on-site coverage by inspectors in the event of a strike at the facility. The senior resident inspector, the branch chief for the facility and additional inspectors are currently on site observing AmerGen's implementation of their strike contingency plan. Additionally, a six person NRC inspection team has been on site all week for a preplanned inspection.

AmerGen Energy Company issued a press release in this matter and notified state and local authorities and the NRC resident inspectors. This information has been discussed with AmerGen management and is current as of 3 p.m. on May 22. The State of New Jersey has been notified by the NRC.

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