

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-05-010

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Southern Nuclear Company
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit 1
Baxley, GA
Dockets/License: 50-321, DPR-57

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: Hatch Unit 1 Main Transformer Fire

The State of Georgia was informed by the licensee via their event notification system.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone call from headquarters operations center at about 3:00 p.m., (DST) on October 29, 2005.

The Unit 1 main transformer experienced an internal fault and subsequent fire on October 29, 2005. The main transformer fault caused the Unit 1 main turbine to trip and a subsequent reactor trip. All systems responded as expected to the turbine and reactor trips. Emergency power is available through the normal off-site power supply. The transformer deluge system functioned properly and the on-site fire brigade responded to the fire. The licensee declared a NOUE at 1:40 p.m., due to a fire lasting more than ten minutes. At about 4:00 p.m., the licensee secured the transformer deluge system, but the fire reflash. The transformer deluge system was restarted. The Baxley fire department was requested to relieve the on-site fire brigade. At 12:21 a.m., on October 30, 2005, the licensee declared the fire extinguished and exited the NOUE at 12:50 a.m.

The unit will remain shutdown to replace the transformer and repair other fire-damaged plant equipment. The licensee does have a spare transformers on-site and is evaluating their available options for returning the unit to service.

During the event and immediately afterward, the licensee evaluated the potential impact of the fire on the operating unit, Unit 2. Power supply cables from the 2C start-up transformer (SUT) to the Unit 2 non-safety busses pass in close proximity to the failed Unit 1 main transformer. The licensee is examining these cables for potential fire damage, but has not identified any damage to this point. Should a fault occur due to fire damage of the Unit 2 non-safety bus feeders, the licensee would have to de-energize the 2C SUT. This would place the Unit in 72-hour LCO for removing one of the off-site power supplies to the Unit 2 safety busses.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 2:00 p.m., on October 31, 2005.

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