

Date: May 26, 2006

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-06-001A

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 II staff on this date.

FACILITY:

Plant: Catawba Nuclear Station

Unit: 1 & 2

Docket No(s): 50-413, 50-414

Location: Rock Hill, SC

Licensee Emergency Classification:

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UPDATE - LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER AND DUAL UNIT REACTOR TRIP

On May 25, 2006, the licensee completed its investigation into the events of May 20, 2006, that opened multiple power circuit breakers (PCBs) in the Catawba switchyard and resulted in a loss of offsite power and dual unit reactor trip. The licensee identified several switchyard protective relay settings that were not set adequately to prevent inadvertent actuation, which in conjunction with an initial PCB current transformer failure lead to the dual unit trip. The licensee has completed repairs to switchyard components including adjustments of relay setpoints for the affected switchyard PCBs. The licensee commenced restart of Unit 2 on May 26, 2006. The reactor currently is at approximately 11% power with turbine warming in progress. Restart of Unit 1 will follow after Unit 2 is on-line.

In a related event, on May 22, 2006, two days after the loss of offsite power, the licensee identified water leaking through cable conduits into the 1A emergency diesel generator room. Region II amended the Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) charter on May 25, 2006, to review the circumstances and extent of this condition. Subsequent licensee investigation identified the apparent source of water as overflow from the cooling tower basins. The licensee has completed the appropriate repairs.

The Augmented Inspection Team has independently reviewed the events relating to, and the licensee's activities during and following, the transient and is satisfied with the licensee's corrective actions in support of reactor startup. An exit and public meeting to discuss the results of this inspection will be held at 1:00 p.m., on May 31, 2006, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 11:00 a.m., on May 26, 2006.

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