March 5, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-08-0003

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	**Licensee Emergency Classification**	
Progress Energy		Notification of Unusual Event
Crystal River Nuclear Plant Unit 3		Alert
Crystal River, FL		Site Area Emergency
Dockets/License: 50-302/DPR-72		General Emergency
	X	Not Applicable

Subject: CIRCUMFERENTIAL INDICATIONS IN ALLOY 600 WELD IN DECAY HEAT DROP LINE

On March 5, 2008, during a planned outage to replace a degrading RCP seal, Progress Energy identified two circumferential indications in a weld that joins the Decay Heat removal system drop line to a reactor coolant system hot leg. This decay heat drop line piping has a nominal diameter of 12" and a nominal wall thickness of 1.312".

Preliminary evaluations of the inspection results indicate that both indications were circumferential in orientation and connected to the inside surface of the piping. The larger of the two was approximately 10 inches in length with a small portion of the flaw penetrating approximately 70 percent throughwall. The second was approximately 8 inches in length and shallow.

The inspection was performed to meet MRP-139, "Materials Reliability Program: Primary System Butt Welds Inspection and Evaluation" requirements. An inspection of this weld was conducted during the November 2007 refueling outage. No indications requiring mitigation were identified. After operating experience was received from another B&W facility regarding weld flaws in this portion of piping, the licensee determined that additional inspection of this weld was warranted. In this current inspection, the licensee used newer NDE tools and techniques that differ from those used during the November 2007 investigation.

The unit will remain shut down while repair plans are developed. The NRC resident inspectors are onsite and have closely monitored the licensee activities. Region II is evaluating the need for additional inspection of this issue.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the senior resident inspector at approximately 3:00 a.m. on March 5. The information presented herein has been discussed with Progress Energy, and is current as of 12:00 p.m. on March 5, 2008.

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