March 19, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-08-003A

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: UPDATE - CIRCUMFERENTIAL INDICATIONS IN ALLOY 600 WELD IN DECAY HEAT DROP LINE

On March 5, 2008, during a planned outage to replace a degrading reactor coolant pump 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”.

Further evaluations of the preliminary examination results revealed that the two indications were connected. The inspection results indicated that the flaw was circumferential in orientation and connected to the inside surface of the piping. The indication was approximately 15 inches in length with a small portion of the flaw penetrating approximately 65 percent throughwall. A weld overlay repair and a satisfactory ultrasonic phase array inspection was completed on March 18, 2008. The licensee is making preparations for plant startup.

The NRC has reviewed the repair plans. Resident inspectors as well as additional Region II inspectors are onsite and are closely monitoring the licensee activities.

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 the licensee, and is current as of 12:00 p.m. on March 19, 2008.

CONTACT: Marvin D. Sykes, RII
404-562-4629