

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-I-09-007

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

Dominion Nuclear Connecticut
Millstone Unit 3
Waterford, CT
Docket: 50-423

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE UNIT 3 REACTOR TRIP AND SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

On December 19, 2009, at 10:53 p.m., Millstone Unit 3 experienced an automatic reactor trip due to an electrical fault on the main generator output circuit breaker. All plant safety systems responded as expected. The plant was safely placed in hot standby.

The main generator output circuit breaker experienced an electrical fault. A number of protective relays actuated as designed and opened the main generator output breakers, tripping the turbine and subsequently, shutting down the reactor. The operators stabilized the plant in hot standby and decay heat removal was accomplished by operating a combination of both the atmospheric steam relief valves and ultimately the main condenser steam dump valves.

The electrical fault caused the loss of one offsite power source to Unit 3. The plant responded as designed and transferred all applicable electrical busses to the alternate offsite power source. Offsite power was maintained to all electrical busses throughout the duration of the transient. Both emergency diesel generators remain operable and the station blackout diesel generator is available.

In accordance with the plant's technical specifications, the licensee is placing the reactor in cold shutdown due to one offsite power source being declared inoperable as a result of the electrical fault. The licensee is presently evaluating the cause and extent of condition of the electrical fault and developing a schedule for repairs.

The NRC resident inspector responded to the site upon initial notification of the issue.

State and local officials have been informed.

The NRC Region I Public Affairs Office is responding to media inquiries.

The information presented herein has been discussed with Dominion and is current as of December 21, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

NRC Region I will update this Preliminary Notification after plant restart.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML093550301

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SUNSI Review Complete: DEJ (Reviewer's Initials)

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