

Power Reactor	Event Number: 45593
Facility: FITZPATRICK Region: 1 State: NY Unit: [1] [] [] RX Type: [1] GE-4 NRC Notified By: GENE DORMAN HQ OPS Officer: CHARLES TEAL	Notification Date: 12/28/2009 Notification Time: 17:33 [ET] Event Date: 12/28/2009 Event Time: 15:15 [EST] Last Update Date: 12/28/2009
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(2)(xi) - OFFSITE NOTIFICATION	Person (Organization): NEIL PERRY (R1DO)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
1	N	Y	100	Power Operation	100	Power Operation

Event Text

OFFSITE NOTIFICATION FOR ELEVATED TRITIUM LEVELS

"On 12/23/09, station management was notified that a sample taken from [James A. Fitzpatrick] JAFs west storm drain was positive for tritium. The sample results were confirmed at 984 pCi/L. The sensitivity of the analysis is 800 pCi/L. The Offsite Dose Calculation Manual (ODCM) lower limit of detection (LLD) requirement for tritium is 3,000 pCi/L with a reporting level of 30,000 pCi/L. Comparing the confirmed activity level in the sample with the reporting criteria, there is little environmental impact, as the sample is more than an order of magnitude below the reporting criteria.

"Although no regulatory limit was exceeded these results were evaluated against the NEI 07-07 guidance for voluntary informal communication of state/local authorities. Since the storm drains communicate with native soil and Lake Ontario, it has been determined that the voluntary informal communication criteria applies. That determination was made at 1515 [EST] on 12/28/09.

"Since the state and local agencies will be notified of the slightly positive indication in the storm drain sample, reporting criterion 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(xi) was reviewed and based on the public sensitivity to tritium issues, it was determined that a notification to the NRC should be made.

"The site has developed an action plan to address locating the source of the tritium [including] potential remediation actions, inclusion in the annual Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) report, and evaluation for inclusion as an NRC IN 80-10 pathway. In the interim, both the reactor building perimeter sump and west storm drain have been placed on an increased sampling frequency. The storm drain will be sampled weekly and the reactor building perimeter sump will be sampled daily.

"Background: On 11/03/09 station management was notified that a sample from the reactor building perimeter sump was positive for tritium at 1474 pCi/L. The reactor building perimeter sump was placed on increased monitoring frequency due to the positive indication. Since the sump only communicates with the environment, through the west storm drain, and there was no positive indication of tritium in the west storm drain or in the ground water monitoring wells, it was determined that no 'voluntary informal communication' criteria applied, at that time."

The licensee has notified the NRC Resident Inspector.