

Date: June 21, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-I-12-003

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information received may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region Staff.

Facility

PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
Susquehanna Unit 1  
Berwick, PA  
Docket: 50-387

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN EXPECTED TO BE GREATER THAN 72 HOURS TO REPAIR A LEAK FROM A CHEMICAL DECONTAMINATION PIPE ON THE '1A' REACTOR RECIRCULATION LOOP

The licensee for Susquehanna Unit 1 commenced an unplanned shutdown on June 19 to conduct an inspection to identify the source of a leak into the drywell. The leakage had increased from 0.13 gallons per minute (gpm) to 1.62 gpm over a 4 day period.

The licensee identified a leak in reactor coolant pressure boundary piping in the weld for a decontamination connection on the '1A' reactor recirculation loop. The leak occurred in the weld where the decontamination pipe is connected to the 28 inch diameter reactor recirculation suction line. The decontamination connection, which is sealed with a bolted blank flange/cover during plant operations, is a pipe approximately 10 inches long and 4 inches in diameter. This pipe is welded to the reactor coolant system piping on the suction side of the '1A' reactor recirculation pump. The connection is designed to be used on an infrequent basis during outage periods to decontaminate the reactor coolant system piping.

The licensee took the plant to cold shutdown to repair the leak. The licensee is currently developing plans for repairing the weld, performing extent of condition inspections, and conducting a root cause analysis of the cracked weld. The Resident Inspectors and a Regional specialist will continue to review the circumstances surrounding the event.

The NRC Resident Inspectors monitored the shutdown and will continue to evaluate the shutdown, repair activities, and corrective actions.

The information presented herein has been discussed with PPL Susquehanna management and is current as of June 20, 2012.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified.

Region I Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12173A367

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