

Date: July 31, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-I-12-005

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Exelon Generation Company, LLC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Oyster Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Forked River, NJ	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-219	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK REACTOR SHUTDOWN AND UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO A LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER AND SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

On July 23, at 3:29 a.m., Oyster Creek automatically shutdown following a loss of offsite power (LOOP) due to an electrical fault on an offsite transmission line. All control rods inserted during the scram. The licensee declared an Unusual Event (UE) at 3:41 a.m. because the LOOP exceeded 15 minutes in duration. Both isolation condensers (ICs) actuated to cool the reactor. As a result of the loss of offsite power, both emergency diesel generators (EDGs) automatically started and provided electrical power to safety equipment. As expected, due to the LOOP and before the EDG's started, power was interrupted to the reactor protection system which caused a primary containment isolation. Plant operators used the isolation condenser, the electromatic relief valves (EMRVs) and the control rod drive pumps to control reactor pressure and level. Offsite power was restored at 4:57 a.m., and the UE terminated at 5:38 a.m. on July 23. The licensee achieved cold shutdown on July 24.

The electrical system transmission operator determined that the loss of offsite power was the result of an electrical ground caused by a tree contacting one transmission line, as well as an unrelated electrical circuit breaker coordinator problem that affected the other transmission line running between Oyster Creek and its connection to the electrical grid. The transmission system operator repaired these problems.

In addition, Exelon initially reported to the NRC that the reactor building (secondary containment) differential pressure indicated positive 0.25 inches at 3:57 a.m., but returned to its normal negative pressure at 4:34 a.m. The cause was determined to be instrument error due to loss of instrument air, and secondary containment pressure actually remained at its normal, negative value throughout this event. Exelon will update this event report in the near future.

The resident inspectors responded to the site and closely monitored licensee actions to stabilize the plant, restore offsite power, and troubleshoot plant systems. Regional specialists assisted the resident staff in reviewing Exelon's actions to address equipment issues before plant restart.

Following the repairs to the offsite electrical system by the transmission system operator, and verification of the operability of onsite plant systems, Exelon restarted the plant on June 26. The plant reached 100% power on July 28.

The State of New Jersey was informed at the time of the event. The NRC Region I Public Affairs Office responded to media inquiries.

The information presented herein was discussed with Exelon and is current as of July 30, 2012 at 9:15 am. This PN is being issued to describe the conditions that were found to have caused this plant shutdown as well as to discuss the subsequent restart of the unit. Accordingly, no update to this PN will be issued.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML 12214A163

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Licensee: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Oyster Creek Generating Station

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRP\PNS\PNO-I-12-005 - OC RX TRIP DUE TO A LOOP R1 LICENSEE REVIEWED - RV-1 (2).DOCX
ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML12214A163**

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