PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION
September 7, 2012

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-12-010A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

Facility
Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2
Exelon Generating Company, LLC
Morris, IL
Docket: 50-237

Licensee Emergency Classification
___ Notification of Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
_x_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UPDATE - UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS ON AUGUST 30, 2012, DUE TO CIRCULATING WATER SYSTEM VACUUM VENT LINE FAILURE

On September 5, 2012, Dresden operators restarted the reactor following repairs to the circulating water vent line. The unit synchronized to the grid at 6:20 p.m. CDT. On September 7, 2012, at 2:53 a.m., the unit reached full power.

Previously, on August 30, 2012, at 2:35 a.m. CDT, the Unit 2 control room received indications of high conductivity in the condenser. The indications were due to circulating water leakage into the condenser. The circulating water system and condenser are not safety-related. The licensee determined that the leak rate was approximately 46 gpm. Operators began to reduce power to 30 percent to investigate the leakage and subsequently determined a shutdown was necessary for repairs. At 8:15 p.m. local time on August 30, operators completed the shutdown of the reactor by manual insertion of all control rods. On August 31, 2012, the licensee commenced removing water from the condenser in order to allow workers to enter the waterbox to search for the source of inleakage. Upon investigation of the waterbox, plant workers identified that a circulating water vacuum vent line had failed. The vacuum vent line is a suction line for the vacuum pump associated with the circulating water side of the condenser and connects with a vacuum pump which would ensure the condenser tubes were full of water when starting up the circulating water system. This failure allowed circulating water to pass from the center water box into the main condenser. This condition had no impact on public or plant safety. The vent line has been plugged, stopping the leakage. The NRC resident inspectors were notified in advance of the shutdown and continue to follow the licensee's actions.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

Region III received initial notification that the site was going to shut down by a telephone call from the site vice president at approximately 11:30 a.m. CDT on August 30, 2012.

The information herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 10:00 a.m. on September 7, 2012.

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