

September 18, 2012

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

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 by the Region II staff.

Facility

Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Unit 1
Duke Energy
Southport, NC
Docket: 50-325

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2012, DUE TO POTENTIAL 1B RECIRCULATION PUMP SEAL FAILURE

On September 15, 2012, the licensee observed indications that pressure on the number 2 seal for the 1B recirculation pump had increased to 720 psig (normally 590 psig). This indicated that the number 1 seal was potentially failing. Each Brunswick unit has two variable speed recirculation pumps which provide a means to change reactor power by varying the amount of coolant flow through the reactor core. The licensee determined that a plant shutdown was warranted. A controlled down power to cold shutdown (Mode 4) commenced early on September 16. The NRC Resident Inspector was on site and monitored the shutdown activities.

The outage is expected to take 4-5 days. The NRC resident inspectors continue to follow the licensee's actions.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

The information herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 3:30 p.m. on September 17, 2012.

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