

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

July 15, 2013

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-13-006A

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
First Energy Nuclear Operating Company
Oak Harbor, Ohio
Docket: 50-346

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - DAVIS-BESSE UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS ON JUNE 29, 2013, DUE TO TRIP OF REACTOR COOLANT PUMP AND SUBSEQUENT DISCOVERY OF REACTOR PRESSURE BOUNDARY LEAKAGE

On June 29, 2013, at approximately 9:20 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time, Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station experienced a trip of one of four reactor coolant pumps due to an electrical fault. The loss of the pump resulted in the reactor tripping off line. All primary reactor systems responded as expected following the reactor trip. Plant operators subsequently placed the reactor in Mode 3 – Hot Standby. The Resident Inspectors responded to the site on Saturday night, determined that the reactor trip was uncomplicated and have provided site coverage since.

Station personnel continue to investigate the cause of the electrical fault on the reactor coolant pump. The initial investigation also identified a small leak in a ¾ inch pipe coming off the same reactor coolant pump. The leak constituted reactor pressure boundary leakage and reactor operators placed the reactor in Mode 5 – Cold Shutdown, as required by plant Technical Specifications. The Resident Inspectors continue to monitor the Station's investigations into the causes of the reactor coolant pump electrical fault and the reactor pressure boundary leakage, and the planned repairs of both issues.

The State of Ohio has been informed.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

Region III received initial notification of this occurrence by a telephone call from the licensee at 22:53 (EST) on June 29, 2013 (refer to Event Notification No. 49159)

Update: NRC inspectors verified that station personnel replaced the section of ¾ inch pipe that was leaking and also a short section of 3 inch component cooling water pipe that was found with a small leak. The licensee concluded that neither leak contributed to the plant trip.

Wiring, associated with a current transformer on one phase of the power cables to the reactor coolant pump motor that tripped, was found charred and no longer connected to the current transformer. This was determined to be the cause of the trip of the reactor coolant pump motor.

Electrical checks of the current transformer and the reactor coolant pump motor did not indicate any issues with the components. The charred wiring was replaced with some minor rerouting to have the wiring further away from a terminal that may have contributed to the charring. The NRC inspectors also verified the licensee's wiring repairs.

The reactor coolant system was refilled and heat-up to normal operating pressure and temperature commenced on July 9, 2013. The main generator was synchronized with the electrical grid on July 12, 2013. Operators returned the reactor to 100 percent power early in the morning of July 14, 2013. The Resident Inspectors monitored reactor coolant pump restarts and reactor startup activities.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 9:00 a.m. Central Daylight Savings Time, July 15, 2013. This preliminary notification update is issued for information only.

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Contacts: J. Cameron
(630) 829-9833
Jamnes.Cameron@nrc.gov