March 8, 2016

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-II-16-001

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 (Atlanta, GA)

Facility
Duke Energy
Oconee, Unit 1
Seneca, SC
Docket: 50-269

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

SUBJECT: OCONEE UNIT 1 SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 48 HOURS DUE TO FIRE/EXPLOSION IN THE MAIN TRANSFORMER

On March 6, 2016, at 3:12 p.m., a fire occurred in the Oconee Unit 1 main step-up transformer causing a main turbine trip and subsequent reactor trip. All safety systems functioned as expected. Units 2 and 3 remained at 100 percent power and were unaffected. At 3:20 p.m. the licensee declared a Notice of Unusual Event due to a fire/explosion in the protected area. At 4:58 p.m., the licensee declared an Alert due to visible damage to permanent structures or equipment required for safe shutdown. As a result of the fire, a power line from the transformer fell across the 230kV Yellow bus in the switchyard, creating a short to ground. The Yellow bus is one path for the AC emergency power sources to provide power to the safety busses. Other paths for emergency power remain operable. The Alert was terminated at 8:16 p.m.

Unit 1 is currently in Mode 3 and stable at normal operating pressure and temperature. This preliminary notification is being made because the Unit 1 outage will take more than 48 hours while the licensee makes repairs and prepares to restart the plant. This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

Region II received notification of this occurrence by telephone call from the licensee at about 3:20 p.m. EDT on March 6, 2016. The NRC resident inspectors responded to the site and have been monitoring the event response and licensee's actions. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 1:25 p.m. March 7, 2016. The State of South Caroline has been informed of these events.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML16068A249

Contacts: Frank Ehrhardt
(404) 997-4611
Frank.Ehrhardt@nrc.gov

Eddy Crowe
(864) 882-6927
Eddy.Crowe@nrc.gov