

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-99-020

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 Region I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

Facility

Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.  
Nine Mile Point 2  
Lycoming, New York  
Dockets: 50-410

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: REACTOR SCRAM AND FORCED OUTAGE GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

On April 24, at 4:19 a.m., Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2) automatically scammed from 100 percent power. All control rods fully inserted. The preliminary cause was determined to be the failure of a relay in the generator protection circuit. The relay failure caused a turbine trip and resulting reactor scram. Additionally, instead of a fast transfer of electrical loads to off-site power, a residual (slower) transfer occurred, which caused all feedwater, condensate booster and recirculation pumps to trip. The loss of feedwater resulted in reactor vessel water level lowering to Level 2 (108.8 inches above the top of the active fuel). The high pressure core spray system (HPCS) automatically initiated on the Level 2 reactor water level signal and restored vessel level. The reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) system also initiated, but failed to come up to speed and was tripped by operators. The main steam isolation valves remained open during the event. Plant cooldown was commenced on natural recirculation using the turbine bypass valves and by late evening April 24, the plant was in cold shutdown.

Coinciding with the reactor scram, there was a trip of the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) 3B, which provides a portion of the power to the reactor protection system. The licensee has initiated two event investigation teams. One team is evaluating the unit trip and associated electrical system issues; the second team is evaluating the RCIC system problem.

The licensee anticipates the outage duration to be approximately five days, with unit startup and return to full power scheduled to be completed by Saturday, May 1. Major outage activities, in addition to trouble shooting and repair of the RCIC system and UPS, include recirculation flow control valve maintenance.

The resident inspectors have been monitoring licensee activities. A region based inspector has also been dispatched to assist and evaluate the licensee's review of the electrical system issues.

The licensee has contacted local media representatives but does not intend to issue a press release.

The information is current as of 12:00 noon, April 26, 1999.

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