

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: July 18, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80- 102

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Jersey Central Power and Light Company  
Oyster Creek (DN 50-219)  
Forked River, New Jersey

Subject: REACTOR TRIP WITH SPURIOUS TRIPLE LOW WATER LEVEL SIGNAL

On July 17, 1980 at 8:35 P.M. during power ascension following plant startup, operators attempted to control increasing reactor pressure by operation of the steam bypass valves (BPV's). The operators reduced the pressure setpoints on both the mechanical pressure regulator (MRP) and the electric pressure regulator (EPR) but the BPV's did not open. The operators began inserting control rods but before the pressure increase could be terminated, one electromatic relief valve (ERV) opened at a pressure of 1050 psig. In about 20 seconds, pressure decreased to 1000 psig., the ERV reseated and an inadvertent reactor building closed cooling water (RBCCW) isolation occurred. The RBCCW isolation was immediately reset and flow was restored. As pressure again increased, it was determined that the low condenser vacuum trip was not operating properly, thereby, preventing the BPV's from opening. The trip reset was actuated. This action caused all nine BPV's to open fully. As reactor pressure rapidly decreased due to this action, the operator tripped shut the BPV's. The resultant pressure transient caused a momentary triple low water level signal on the trend recorder followed 24 seconds later by a reactor water low level scram. The triple low level indication on the trend recorder lasted less than 0.5 seconds. No triple low level annunciator was received and no ECCS activation occurred. Reactor water level, as indicated by the GMAC recorder, did not go lower than 6 inches below the scram setpoint. Current analysis of the available data indicates that the triple low level indicated by the trend recorder was a spurious signal caused by a hydraulic disturbance in the annulus area of the reactor vessel resulting from the closure of the BPV's. A rapid pressure increase in the annulus is believed to have caused the momentary erroneous indication due to the location of the high and low pressure taps for the differential pressure cell and the time lag associated with equalization of pressure across the steam dryers.

The plant is being taken to the cold shutdown condition for further analysis of the data and for investigation of the spurious RBCCW isolation which is currently unexplained.

Media interest is expected. The licensee plans to issue a press release today. No press release by NRC is planned at this time but Region I will respond to inquiries.

The NRC Headquarters Duty Officer was notified via ENS at 9:43 P.M., July 17, 1980 and in turn notified the Region I Duty Officer at 10:05 P.M. The NRC Resident Inspector was notified of the event by the Station Superintendent at 11:15 P.M. and arrived on site at 12:30 A.M. July 16, 1980.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Region I Form 83a  
(Rev. January 1980)

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This Preliminary Notification is issued for information only. The resident inspectors will continue to follow the licensee's investigation of this event.

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