

DCS No: 50219900206
Date: February 6, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-90-09

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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility:	Licensee Emergency Classification:
GPU Nuclear Corporation	Notification of Unusual Event
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station	Alert
Docket No. 50-219	Site Area Emergency
Forked River, New Jersey	General Emergency
	<u>X</u> Not Applicable

Subject: PLANT SHUTDOWN DUE TO INCREASING UNIDENTIFIED REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAKAGE

At approximately 4:30 a.m. on February 6, 1990 the licensee commenced a plant shutdown as a result of increasing unidentified reactor coolant system leakage. The source of the increasing unidentified leakage is believed to be the "A" recirculation pump seal which has been showing indications of failing for the past few weeks. Technical specifications require that the plant be shutdown if unidentified leakage exceeds five gpm. The licensee had established an action level for performing a plant shutdown if the four hour average leak exceeded 4.75 gpm. At 3:00 a.m. the four hour average unidentified leakage was 4.78 gpm.

On January 10, 1990 while attempting to remove the "A" recirculation pump from service for motor-generator set preventative maintenance, the "A" recirculation pump discharge valve failed to close. The "A" recirculation pump was secured with the discharge valve partially opened. This event may have led to eventual seal failure. After the discharge valve and pump were returned to service, the "A" recirculation pump first stage seal showed indications that it failed when second stage seal pressure increased to 940 psig. The normal second stage pressure is approximately 510 psig. The second stage seal subsequently started to show indications of failing when seal temperatures began increasing and second stage pressure began decreasing. Unidentified leakage was noted to increase when second stage seal pressure started decreasing. On January 31, 1990 the licensee removed the "A" recirculation pump from service and operated the plant with four operating loops and one idle loop.

The present outage to repair the "A" recirculation pump seal is scheduled for eight days.

The State of New Jersey has been notified.

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