

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

DCS No. 50219-810828

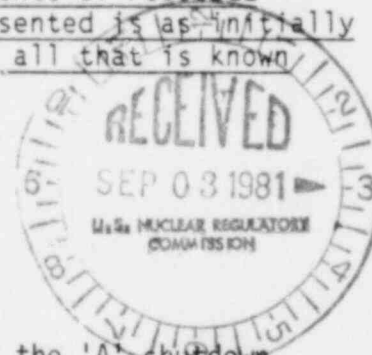
Date: August 31, 1981

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81- 99

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 Nuclear Generating Station  
Forked River, New Jersey (DN 50-219)

Subject: SHUTDOWN COOLING SYSTEM HEAT EXCHANGER FAILURES



At about 3:35 p.m. on August 28, 1981, a tube failure occurred in the 'A' shutdown cooling system heat exchanger (SDCHX). A previous failure of the 'C' SDCHX occurred on August 27, 1981, and was reported in PNO-I-81-97. The plant was in a cold shutdown condition with the 'A' SDCHX in service maintaining reactor temperature between 160 and 180F when the second failure occurred. The licensee isolated the shutdown cooling (SDC) system and has implemented an alternate method of shutdown cooling using the reactor water cleanup system nonregenerative heat exchanger (NRHX) and letdown to the main condenser. The failures of the 'A' and 'C' SDCHX's occurred within one week of an incident which caused chloride contamination of the RBCCW system. The 'B' SDCHX is thought to be operational but is isolated. All other components cooled by RBCCW are being monitored for indications of failure. The licensee mobilized the plant management and technical staff in an alert condition to insure the presence of adequate personnel to develop contingency plans to cope with additional component failures which might cause degradation of decay heat removal capabilities. The licensee's emergency plan was not activated. The NRC RRI remained on site throughout the night to monitor plant conditions and IE and NRR personnel were put on standby to respond if conditions deteriorated. An additional inspector and a member of NRC Region I management arrived on site about 7:00 a.m. on August 29, 1981, to assess plant status. The plant is presently in a stable condition with the alternate shutdown cooling method maintaining reactor temperature between 135 and 140F. Procedures are being developed to provide additional methods of cooling in the event of further component failures. Planning is in progress to open and inspect the SDCHX's to determine the failure mechanism. The plant will remain shut down pending further investigation.

No offsite release of radioactive material occurred as a result of this event.

This PN is issued for information only.

The licensee has issued a press release. A press release is not planned by the NRC at this time but press inquiries have been responded to. The State of New Jersey and FEMA have been informed. The NRC RRI and one Region I inspector are providing 24 hour coverage monitoring the plant. NRC Region I was informed by telephone call from the RRI at 3:55 p.m. on August 28, 1981. The licensee made an ENS call to the HQ Duty Officer at about 5:30 p.m. on August 28, 1981. Periodic updates on plant status were provided to the HQ Duty Officer by the RRI during the weekend. This information is current as of 8:00 a.m., August 31, 1981.

Contact: J. Thomas  
(609) 502-0700

E. Greenman  
488-1267

R. Keimig  
488-1252

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PDR I&E

PNO-I-81-099 PDR

Region I Form 83a  
(Rev. January 1981)

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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