

Date: January 19, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNI-9406

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.

Facilities:

Salem Units 1 & 2
 Susquehanna Units 1 & 2
 Hope Creek
 Limerick Units 1 & 2
 Peach Bottom Units 2 & 3
 TMI Unit 1
 Oyster Creek

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

Docket Nos.: 50-272/50-311, 50-387/388, 50-354, 50-352/353, 50-277/278, 50-289, 50-219

License Nos.: DPR-70/75, NPF-14/22, NPF-57, NPF-39/85, DPR-44/56, DPR-50, DPR-16

Event No.: N/A

Event Location Code: POW

Subject: PJM GRID STABILITY CONCERNS

Due to extreme winter weather conditions adversely affecting the PJM (Pennsylvania - New Jersey - Maryland Interconnection) grid, a number of utilities have effected actions to ensure continued grid stability. The affected nuclear utilities and power stations are: PECO Energy Corporation, Peach Bottom and Limerick Generating Stations; PSE&G, Salem and Hope Creek Generating Stations; GPU Nuclear, TMI-1 and Oyster Creek Generating Stations; PP&L, Susquehanna Generating Station; and BG&E, Calvert Cliffs Generating Station. Generally, the actions taken have included grid voltage reductions of up to 5%, voluntary removal of power to commercial users, and suspension of high risk maintenance and surveillance activities that could further impact grid or unit continued operations. Additionally, PECO Energy Corporation has found it necessary to commence non-voluntary rotating local blackouts of 30 minute duration for non-commercial users and involuntary removal of certain commercial facilities to maintain stable conditions. This specific action was terminated at 1:07 p.m. on January 19.

These utilities are also identifying if additional regulatory actions may be necessary, including suspension of technical specification surveillance activities to avoid jeopardizing grid or unit operations. Any such suspensions would be considered by NRC under the enforcement discretion process.

Current grid demands are being met with the above actions in place. Continued operation of fossil plants may be adversely affected in the next few days due to diminished fuel supplies. Two nuclear units, Susquehanna Unit 1 and Salem Unit 1 are both shutdown and expected to start up from refueling outages in the next few days. Calvert Cliffs Unit 2, which had tripped on January 12, 1994 and had extended their shutdown to repair a reactor vessel seal leakoff line, is expected to tie to the grid this afternoon.

The remaining nuclear utilities in the Region report no problems with their respective grids with the exception that Con Ed (Indian Point Unit 2) reports the need for periodic 5% voltage reductions and RG&E (Ginna) reports slight grid frequency fluctuations.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9406

NRC Region I Management conducted a conference call with senior management representatives of the PJM grid nuclear utilities to discuss the need for further actions to ensure continued safe operation. Resident inspectors are onsite at each affected nuclear station and have been informed of the above actions.

The States of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been notified.

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