

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-01

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 III staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Wisconsin Public Service Corp.	General Emergency
Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant	Site Area Emergency
Kewaunee, Wisconsin	Alert
	Unusual Event
	x Not Applicable

Subject: SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAKAGE

At approximately 3:00 p.m. (CST) on January 5, 1994, the licensee commenced a shutdown of the plant to identify and repair the source of unidentified primary coolant system leakage.

The unidentified leakage had slowly increased over the last 200 days to approximately 60% of the Technical Specification limit of one gallon per minute. The licensee's monthly containment inspections had earlier identified a pressurizer code safety valve loop seal drain line isolation valve as the likely source of the leakage.

During observation by a remote TV camera on 1/5/94, boron crystals were identified on a pipe weld to the loop seal drain valve and on the code safety valve immediately above it. This resulted in the decision to shut down and make repairs.

After the shutdown, a containment entry was made for a better evaluation. After removal of a portion of the pressurizer vault and inspection of the suspect areas, no leakage could be identified in the vicinity of the drain valve. However, steam was noted coming from the vicinity of the area of the pressurizer manway. This manway is covered with insulation that will have to be removed to allow a more exact determination of the leakage location.

In addition, and apparently unrelated, just prior to the shutdown the licensee identified that a portion of the pressurizer code safety valve loop seal drain line had been replaced with thinner wall pipe during the last refueling outage. The licensee plans to replace this section of pipe during this outage.

Kewaunee and Point Beach resident inspectors monitored the shutdown activities. NRC Region III (Chicago) staff specialists are evaluating the safety consequences associated with installation of the thinner wall pipe.

The State of Wisconsin has been notified. Information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. on January 6, 1994.

CONTACT: Roger Lanksbury	L. Robert Greger
708-829-9631	708-829-9628

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